

Message to Families about Hybrid Learning Reopening

February 1, 2021

Dear Team BCPS families,

I appreciate your feedback as we have prioritized health and safety in our reopening plans with the support of stakeholder groups, the Design Team, our COVID-19 Task Force, and BCPS bargaining units.

Our phased-in return for hybrid learning will begin the week of March 1 for the first groups of students. If you chose hybrid learning, which includes two in-person learning days and three virtual learning days per week, you will receive your child's group assignment of Cohort A or Cohort B prior to your child's return date. You always have the option to continue or resume full virtual instruction.

The [Student Hybrid Reopening Timeline](#) is outlined below, along with schedule changes.

Phased-in Hybrid Learning Timeline for Students

The week of March 1 (Phases I and II):

- Students in Public Separate Day Schools: Battle Monument, Maiden Choice, Ridge Ruxton, and White Oak schools (Phase I)
- Students in Preschool – Grade 2: including students in 3-year-old programs; 4-year-old programs; PreKindergarten; Kindergarten; Grades 1 and 2; and Grade 3 students in a Grades 2/3 class in a special education regional program (Phase II)

The week of March 15 (Phase III):

- Students in Grades 3-12 whose Individualized Education Program includes a least restrictive environment that is primarily outside of the general education classroom setting
 - Communication and Learning Support (CLS)
 - Functional Academic Learning Support (FALS)
 - Learning Support for Students who are Deaf and Hard-of Hearing (DHH)
 - Social Emotional Learning Support (SEL)
 - Social Communication Learning Support (SCLS)
- Students in select Career and Technical Education programs that require hands-on learning experiences (schools will contact families)
 - Academy of Health Professions
 - Apprenticeship Maryland
 - Automotive Service Technology
 - Aviation Technology
 - Baking and Pastry Arts (ACF)
 - Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, Building and Construction Trades
 - Construction Design and Management
 - Cosmetology Careers
 - Culinary Arts (American Culinary Federation – ACF)
 - Diesel Truck and Power Systems Technology
 - Engineering Careers

- o Food and Beverage Management (ProStart)
- o Graphic/Print Communications Technology
- o Information Technology: Networking
- o Interactive Media Production
- o Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)
- o Project Lead The Way: Biomedical Sciences
- o Project Lead The Way: Engineering

The week of March 22 (partial Phase IV)

- Remaining students in Grades 6 and 9

The week of April 6 (remaining students in Phase IV)

- Remaining students in Grades 3 – 5; 7 – 8; and 10 – 12

Social Distancing Through Cohorts for Hybrid Learning

Students whose families chose hybrid learning will be assigned to Cohort A or B based on their address. Students whose families chose to continue fully virtual learning or who did not respond to the questionnaire will be assigned to Cohort C.

Students assigned to Cohort A will come to school on Monday and Tuesday. Students assigned to Cohort B will come to school on Thursday and Friday. On the other three days, students in Cohorts A and B will continue virtual learning. Wednesday will continue to be a day of independent (asynchronous) virtual instruction for all students, with scheduled small groups.

Schedule Changes for Elementary Schools

- March 1: All elementary schools return to using 2019-2020 start times for all students.
- March 1 – 12: Students in Preschool through Grade 2 will have a 2-hour early dismissal, based on 2019-2020 dismissal times.
- March 15: All elementary schools (Preschool – Grade 5) return to a full-day schedule following 2019-2020 dismissal times.

Schedule Changes for Middle and High Schools

- March 15: All middle and high schools return to 2019-2020 arrival and dismissal times.
- The number of periods in a student schedule will remain the same as the first semester. Times for classes will be adjusted to fit into a typical 6.5-hour student day, and individual times for virtual and in-person classes will be shared with students and families.
- Practice for high school fall sports will resume on February 13.

Resources for Families and Staff

Schools and offices will be required to follow five safety practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: consistent and correct use of face coverings; social distancing to the extent possible; frequent hand washing and covering of coughs and sneezes; cleaning and disinfecting; and contact tracing led by the Office of Health Services in collaboration with the local health department.

For more information, the [BCPS website](#) provides the following resources for families and staff:

- The [BCPS Reopening Plan](#), which includes health and safety details as well as a reopening plan for each phase
- The BCPS [Parent University InfoCenter](#), allowing users to find reopening information by topic
- The BCPS [COVID-19 Info webpage](#), which provides videos, summaries, and frequently asked questions

We value your feedback, and the BCPS Reopening Design Team and the COVID-19 Task Force are continuing to gather your questions and comments at reopening@bcps.org.

Sincerely,

Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent