

Brooklyn Public Schools' Reopening Update

September 24, 2020

[Connecticut COVID-19 Response](#)
[Northeast District Department of Health](#)
[Brooklyn Public Schools Website](#)
[Brooklyn Public Schools, CT Facebook](#)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Good afternoon! Since my last communication I have had multiple conversations with our local Department of Health, NDDH; the State Department of Education and State Department of Public Health. The guidance that I received this week was that we should be looking to return to full in-person learning for all students as long as we have all the other strong mitigation strategies in place. Those include **wearing a mask at all times** in the building and on the bus, except during lunch; **good ventilation**, **strong cleaning protocols**, **proper hand washing** and **maximizing physical distance**. The only thing that has changed is that we will NOT be having students sitting 6' apart. When we return students to school they will be 3-4' apart. We know that our youngest students are learning but do not maintain 3-4' distances. **We will continue to maintain strong cohorting**, meaning students will be with the same students all day long, now it will be a bigger number of students. We will continue to have a later **start time of 9:15AM**. We will continue to offer the 8:30-9:15 drop off for families who register through Parks and Recreation. They will continue to offer the before and after school program.

Our plan to return to full in-person learning is as follows:

Phase 1 September 28th: Some of our high needs students will return to school. These are students who have an IEP and require specialized instruction.

Phase 2 October 7th: A and B cohort students in grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 return five days/week.

Phase 3 October 13th: A and B cohort students in grades PK, K, 4, 7, 8 will return five days/week.

Phase 4 October 19th: Students in the full distance learning from all grades who wish to return can start as long as we know you have confirmed this with us by October 8th.

If you have any questions you may contact me at buell@brooklynschools.org or

BES graef@brooklynschools.org or

BMS tamsin@brooklynschools.org

We will continue to have bus monitors on the buses for at least two weeks. Depending on the number of students on any crowded buses, we may need to reroute some buses and will inform you if that happens. There are some first grade classrooms that will be moving to a different area of the school to spread out the students and the number of students using any one set of bathrooms. Aside from more students in their classes, students will not be impacted by this in school. Students will be experiencing more live instruction and fewer prerecorded lessons in school. Due to cohorting, students at the middle school will have lessons live through Zoom rather than moving from class to class. This will replace some of the pre recorded videos that have been used.

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The Brooklyn Public Schools

Our distance learners will have a slight change. Grades PK-4 will continue to have the one teacher assigned to them and their work will be coming from that teacher rather than the grade level teachers. Grades 5-8 we will have one content area teacher for each subject and they will provide the work to students.

I want to thank each of you and every employee who has continued to make this challenging schedule and situation meaningful to our students. During our Board of Education meeting last evening I explained that we will still make healthy schools a priority and will continue to implement the mitigation strategies. As the weather becomes colder, we will continue to have a window open in every classroom to promote the exchange of fresh air. Please keep this in mind and send your child to school with sweatshirts or other warm clothing.

In closing I also want to alert you to the possibility that there may be a “snow day” type of call when a classroom or grade level may be asked to stay home and have a remote instruction day. We have very limited substitute teachers available and if we have staff out and are unable to cover the classroom, which is very likely, it is possible that you will receive a call that your child will have a **remote learning day**. **Please be prepared with backup childcare options. We will only do this if it is absolutely necessary or if your child is asked to quarantine. Remember, if your child is sick they should stay home. Please call the nurse’s office to report the illness and guidance about when they can return to school.** This is why we will be sending home Chromebooks. We are asking families to pay for Chromebook insurance if they are able to. See the attached form for details.

I am pleased to be bringing students back to school full time but want to remind everyone that it will take the effort of every employee, student and family member to ensure that you are following proper health and safety measures in and out of school, to keep our schools open. Thank you for reading this and supporting your child and their classroom during this time.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Buell
Superintendent

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