

# Brooklyn Public Schools Continuity of Services Plan

In accordance with CDC/SDE/DPH and NDDH

[Guidance: Launching Into Healthy Learning - Fall 2022](#)

We will follow the recommendations set forth for the 2022-2023 school year.

**COVID-19 Symptoms:** students and staff who have or develop symptoms while at school will be asked to wear a well-fitted mask while in school. They will be sent home and asked to test. **Rapid tests are available if needed.**

Students without symptoms or with mild symptoms are encouraged to attend school! That means: fever free (<100 degrees), feel well, may only have mild respiratory symptoms, and can wear a mask during the isolation period in school (day 6-10) and have been able to isolate from others in their homes who test positive.

**Isolation:** Regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate from others if you have tested positive for COVID-19. The day you test is considered day 0. Stay home for at least 5 days and isolate when you are most likely infectious. If you had no symptoms but tested positive, after day 5 you may end isolation and return to school with a mask for the next five days. If you had symptoms and tested positive, you may end isolation and return to school if you are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. **After testing positive, students and staff must wear a mask through day ten.**

**Quarantine:** Is NOT required this year. If you are exposed to a positive case and you are sick, stay home. If you feel well enough, come to school.

**Community Levels:** universal masking is recommended when community levels are high, as tracked on the CDC website, at all times in the nurses' offices and for people with known exposures for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior illness.

Date of Submission:	August 22, 2022
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**The State of CT will provide test kits to Brooklyn.  
You can ask the school nurse if you need a test kit.**

# Brooklyn Public Schools

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# Brooklyn Public Schools

## Updated Message from the Superintendent

August 2022

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

I am so pleased to welcome you back to a new school year! I am looking forward to the start of the 22-23 school year! You have done an amazing job working through the pandemic and as we begin the new year, I encourage you to review this guidance and send your children to school when they are healthy and keep them home if they are sick.

I am hearing that we anticipate an uptick in illness during the winter months, December through February, like we have every year. COVID-19 and flu will likely spread in school so we ask that you keep track of your child's health and follow the guidance on page one. There are links embedded into the text on page one. They link to the CDC and DPH websites and are likely to change as the pandemic changes. You can continue to use the same links and we will provide information to you, should the recommendations become a requirement.

The Brooklyn Board of Education will continue to offer students an in person education. We are creating a Continuity of Services Plan to address how we will prioritize, plan, monitor and evaluate learning progress in the Brooklyn Public Schools and how to use the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to support the Brooklyn Public Schools. This plan has been approved by the Brooklyn Board of Education with input from stakeholders. It will be modified as necessary and reviewed minimally every six months and is now the fourth revision.

The health and safety of our students, staff and community will remain our first priority as we continue to educate our students and close learning gaps that may have occurred as a result of the pandemic. We have and will continue to use the guidance provided to us by the State Department of Health, the State Department of Education and we will continue to consult with the district's Medical Advisor and the Northeast District Department of Health. Mitigation strategies no longer require the use of face masks and are optional. All families who wish to send their child with a facemask are encouraged to do so. We will continue to use mitigation strategies by encouraging good hygiene including hand washing and covering coughs, increased ventilation by opening windows and asking that students and staff stay home when they are sick. Thank you for your support and contribution to the future of our students!

Patricia L. Buell,  
Superintendent

# Brooklyn Public Schools

**Grant Funding:** The purpose of this funding is to support the unfinished learning, or learning loss of our students due to COVID. The funds were used to offer evidenced-based summer enrichment programs, tutoring, and after school programs.

## **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds**

The Brooklyn Public Schools will receive \$798,038 to be used over two years. The plan for these funds has been published to the website and been part of the budget discussion with the Board of Education and Board of Finance and based on the needs assessment.

## **American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER)**

The Brooklyn Public Schools will receive \$1,409,438 to be used over two years

## **District Continuity Plan Stakeholders**

Information was gathered from a wide range of stakeholders. We have already discussed the funding plans with the Brooklyn Board of Education in public meetings, during Board of Selectman and Board of Finance meetings. We sought feedback on successes and challenges during the varied learning models from students, parents and staff through a variety of methods. Students responded to questions in a survey. Parents were surveyed and invited to participate in Zoom meetings. Staff were surveyed and invited to participate in a Zoom meeting, through email and informal discussions.

## **Public Comment**

Public comment was collected during multiple public meetings when the plans for next year were made. This included multiple Board of Education meetings, Board of Selectmen meeting, Board of Finance meeting, staff Zoom meeting, parent meetings and through informal communication such as phone calls and emails.

## **The Brooklyn Board of Education's Mission Statement:**

We believe public education is an essential component of a free and democratic society. In a partnership of family, school, community, and local and state government, our mission is to enable all students to meet high standards, make productive choices in their personal lives, contribute to a diverse global society and act as responsible citizens. To accomplish this, we must seek the necessary resources to:

- Provide a safe, nurturing and academically challenging learning environment.
- Provide students and staff with opportunities to reach their full potential.
- Prepare students to become productive, lifelong learners.
- Instill in our students a curiosity and love for learning which embraces the arts and the world around them.
- Prepare students to become self-reliant, honest, respectful and responsible members of a diverse and global society.
- Improve student learning by holding staff accountable for providing the most effective learning environment and using the most effective teaching strategies.

# Brooklyn Public Schools

**District Priorities:** Resources have been used to increase instructional coaching and interventions. The focus of the 2021-22 school year was to monitor instructional practices, pacing and student progress. The 2022-23 school year will continue to focus on academic challenges and we will increase language arts supports to grades 3 & 4 as we have discovered that some students have missed out on foundational skills that will have long lasting impacts on reading growth.

Our priorities are ensure that all students receive high quality, equitable education in alignment with the 21st century learning skills needed to be successful and happy adults in a healthy school setting. It is our goal to address accelerated learning for students who have had interrupted learning during the pandemic and to provide a stronger tier I, II and III instruction through continued curriculum development, coaching to maximize effective teaching strategies for students in tier I and II in the classroom; as well as students who may need tier III supports, through intervention.

Specifically you will see the funding will be used for six priority areas:

<b>2022-23 Grant Funds:</b>	<u>ESSER</u>	<u>ARP</u>
1. Curriculum, Assessment and Acceleration Summer Tutoring, K Camp, Transportation, Park & Rec Camp	\$94,860	\$178,200
2. Instruction and Intervention After school clubs, Staff: SE, Intervention, Instructional materials	\$271,723	NA
3. SRBI and Data Analysis Professional Development, Data Analysis	\$7,344	NA
4. Social Emotional and Academic Learning Considering Universal Screening DESSA	NA	NA
5. Technology, Staff and Access Staff, Chromebooks, Hotspots, Hardware, Software	\$25,091	\$351,400
6. Public Health Protocols and Mitigation Strategies TiCoating, Sanitizer, Fountain Install, PPE	NA	NA

## **Wellness Practices**

Our school nurses have been essential to the mitigation of COVID in our buildings this school year. We appreciate them and are grateful for their tireless efforts to educate and protect our students and staff during the pandemic. The Brooklyn Public Schools will continue to follow guidance from the State Department of Education (SDE), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH). Our school nurses also have access to the District's Consulting Physician as needed to address specific questions and receive consultation.

# Brooklyn Public Schools

In summary, as of 8/22/22 we will follow these guidelines:

1. Students and staff should stay home if they feel sick.
2. Face coverings are encouraged and permitted by anyone who wishes to wear one but is not required. Staff are not expected to enforce mask wearing.
3. Masks are required after isolation: days 6-10 when returning to school.
4. Students and staff are required to follow good hand hygiene by washing or disinfecting hands frequently.
5. Anyone with symptoms will contact the school nurse and may be asked to wear a mask if they display active symptoms when being assessed by the nurse. They will be sent home if they have COVID symptoms as determined by the school nurse.
6. Daily notifications will no longer be made by the school and we will follow the CDC guidelines for case rates.
7. Students who wear masks all day long may request or be offered a mask break.
8. If COVID positive, individuals must quarantine 5 days and may return once fever free 24 hours, symptoms are substantially better, and must wear a mask through day 10.
9. We will maximize airflow by opening windows to increase circulation.
10. Staff and students will be permitted to have increased social distancing or other mitigation strategies as necessary

## Safety

The Brooklyn Public Schools will continue to address school safety issues as they arise and will use the district's School Safety Committee to address any improvements or concerns that are raised.

## Academic Acceleration

The Brooklyn Public Schools offered Summer Academy to students during 2021 and offered individual or small group tutoring during the summer of 2022.

**Drop off and pick up** All parents will enter the driveway near the athletic fields of Brooklyn Middle School. Middle School drop off will be at the doors of BMS gymnasium and BES drop off will be behind BES at the preschool entrance. All parents will wait in line in the left lane to drop off students from the left side when prompted by school staff. At all times, be aware of the passing traffic in the right lane and do not allow students to exit the vehicles from the passenger's side unless an adult is monitoring traffic.

Parent pick up for middle school students only is outside of the BMS gymnasium, while parents who are picking up BMS and BES students will pick up their middle school students behind BMS and then get in line to pick up students behind BES. Parents who only have BES pick up will enter the same driveway and proceed to the BES parent pick up line.

## Special Populations

Students with disabilities or who require specialized instruction have their needs addressed through IEP, 504 or EL support plans. Special education students participated in extended school year services or tutoring to address grade level content.

# Brooklyn Public Schools

## Instruction During Quarantine

Students will be instructed to access Google Classroom to access some of their missed work during periods of quarantine. If students need to quarantine, arrangements to pick up or drop off a chromebook will be made on an individual basis. Significant wear and tear occurred with devices during the pandemic and we do not have enough devices for a one to one learning environment for all students.

## Family Connections

The Brooklyn Schools believe that a strong home school connection is beneficial to students' education. We use a variety of formats to communicate with families which include social media, print, voice messages, email and text messaging. We will continue to find ways to provide information to students and families to strengthen our connections. Parents are allowed to enter the rooms and ask that if they do not feel well, they should stay home too. We must be aware of students or staff who may have restrictions based on personal health and those requests will be honored.

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

We all focused on the SEL needs of students, families and staff during the pandemic. The 2021-22 school year was very challenging and we look forward to continued growth during the 22-23 school year. We want to encourage students, families and staff to speak up during difficult times and we will try to connect people with support as needed. Brooklyn is using the DESSA assessment as a universal screen to identify students in need but our social workers are always available to assist.

**Kindergarten Camp:** Last summer we enjoyed bringing our youngest learners into the school to prepare for a new school year. We look forward to a special welcome for them during the summer of 2022.

## Child Nutrition

The Brooklyn Public Schools food services has received notification that they will be able to continue to serve free breakfast and lunch at the start of this school year. EASTCONN Food Services will be running the school cafeteria program. Free meals will NOT run for the full year and families who do NOT qualify for free meals will need to set up an account on NutriKids. EASTCONN does not use Payschools. Students who had a balance on their accounts will have their balances preloaded to their accounts. **It is important all families complete the lunch eligibility forms when sent home. It has been several years since we have collected this data. It is important that we receive this data as it impacts our ability to receive grant funding that we critically need for our programs. Thank you in advance!**

## Transportation

Brooklyn Public Schools contracts with EASTCONN to offer bus service to all school aged students. Students are NOT required to wear masks on the bus but can if they feel they want to. This year, high school students will be transported to a common location to transfer buses. This helps to reduce overlap of buses and allows for later high school pick up times.

# Brooklyn Public Schools

## Facilities

The Brooklyn Public Schools will follow cleaning protocols based on the recommendations of DPH. High traffic areas and bathrooms are cleaned based on recommendations of SDE.

Both schools will continue to provide hand sanitizer stations near main entrances and have sanitizer available in additional locations to promote good hand hygiene.

Ventilation will continue to be monitored and facilitated through open windows. The Town of Brooklyn is considering the purchase and installation of air conditioning for schools pending the approval through the Department of Administrative Services School Construction Grant Funding. Brooklyn maintained open windows to create negative air pressure to force air circulation during the pandemic and will continue to do so. Brooklyn recently completed the TiCoat Application process which will increase the ability to clean using mild soap and water.

## Continuity of Services Plan Committee Members

The purpose of the committee is to review the feedback from stakeholders on this plan and ensure that all aspects of this plan remain a focus for the district. The State Department of Education will require that this plan be reviewed at least twice annually.

## LEA COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaisons:

2022-2023: Nurse: [Amy Barrette](#), Brooklyn Elementary School P: 860-774-4618  
Nurse: [Sherry MacFarland](#), Brooklyn Middle School P: 860-774-1498

## School Personnel: (Temporary numbers due to phones damaged by lightning)

Brooklyn Elementary School Office: 860-779-1162 (accepts fax after 4:30PM)

Brooklyn Middle School Office: 860-774-3476 (accepts fax after 4:30PM)

Office of Superintendent Office: 860-774-6938 (accepts fax after 4:30PM)

Parent Volunteers: Meaghan Wakely

Community Volunteers: Diane Wimmer

Staff Volunteers: Denise Nault, Melissa Violette

Administration: Paula Graef, Heather Tamsin, Barbara-Jean Toth, Mark Weaver, Adam Bender

School Nurses: Amy Barrette, Sherry MacFarland

District Website: [www.brooklynschools.org/announcements](http://www.brooklynschools.org/announcements)

## **Brooklyn's Continuity of Services DRAFT Plan for 2022-2023 Revision Dates**

**Review/revise by:**

- **December 2022; March 2023; June 2023**

Public comment is welcome on this plan. Updates to this plan will be shared with the Brooklyn public. You may send comments to [buell@brooklynschools.org](mailto:buell@brooklynschools.org)