



RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

(SAFE RETURN & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES)

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2023-24

NOTICE: The details in this document are subject to change as guidance, directives, and recommendations from governing authorities and health officials respond to new information and developments.

Introduction

The 2023-24 school year will undoubtedly have challenges, but operations have mostly returned to normal. The upcoming school year may still have some minor disruptions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but nothing is expected on a large scale. Briggs is a strong and resilient community, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation through this process. Our primary goal is the health and well-being of students, families, and staff.

We are scheduled to return to school on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. Normal operations have resumed, but health and safety protocols and procedures are still in place to reduce the likelihood of virus transmission. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is available if needed or wanted by students and staff, and we continue enhanced cleaning and disinfection of facilities and equipment. The following pages provide the specifics of our Return to Learn plan. The plan may change as new information and situations unfold. Please bear with us if new or updated guidelines and regulations are issued pertaining to the pandemic. Our goal is to keep your children safe while continuing to further their educational success. We will support our students and staff throughout this pandemic, and kindly ask for your support as well.

Instruction and Learning

Briggs is pleased to provide three learning options for students. Students have the option of traditional on-site learning, virtual/distance learning, or a blended model of both traditional on-site and virtual/distance learning. All students will be provided with a device as needed to enhance their learning. Lenovo 300e and iPad devices are available for distribution.

In the event of a school closure, students will receive instructions in the use of devices for learning and transition to the full virtual/distance learning format. Instruction will be delivered through teacher-directed instruction and/or the learning management system (LMS). Our LMS platform is Edgenuity/Odysseyware with supplemental learning in reading and math from Istation. In addition, we will continue our Success for All Whole School Reform Model with a focus on reading and the Getting Along Together (GAT) social-emotional learning program.

All students (on-site, virtual/distance, blended) may be introduced to the LMS or other online learning platforms. Edgenuity/Odysseyware and Istation may be incorporated into student learning for on-site as well as virtual/distance learning students. Traditional, on-site students will not only benefit from the learning provided from these online learning platforms, but it will make the transition to virtual learning smoother in the event of school closures.

Successful virtual/distance learning is dependent on connectivity. Briggs (or our partners) may provide a Wi-Fi hotspot device for those households without internet access. In addition, Briggs (or our partners) may cover the monthly fees for the unlimited, filtered service in your household during the school year. Please keep in mind that hotspot devices are and will remain the property of Briggs School (or our partners). Hotspot devices will need to be returned at the end of virtual instruction or if a student leaves the district. In addition, the service plan will also be terminated. The district also reserves the right to remove the hotspot and discontinue service if used for unlawful or illegitimate purposes.

In some instances, Wi-Fi hotspots may have inadequate reception due to topography and terrain. Issued hotspots are mobile devices that can be used anywhere that a signal is available. If students are still unable to connect, they may come to the school campus for virtual instruction. Students will report to an assigned classroom where they will be supervised by their assigned teacher. Breakfast and lunch will be provided while on-site. If this option is not practical, the school will provide an alternate method of instruction that is equitable to virtual (internet-based) online offerings. This may include paper packets that are supplemented with direct contact with teachers.

Learning Options

- Option 1: Traditional On-Site Learning and Instruction
 - Technology device and/or log-in credentials issued as needed.
 - Teachers provide face to face instruction.
 - Students attend regular, traditional classes.
 - Transition to virtual/distance learning in event of school closure.
- Option 2: Virtual/Distance Learning and Instruction
 - Based on need/circumstances. Administrative approval required.
 - Technology Device Issued/Hotspot and Service Available.
 - 100% at home virtual schooling.
 - Teacher will support instruction through Edgenuity/Odysseyware and Istation.
 - Participation in athletics and/or extracurricular activities possible by request.
 - Expected minimum commitment of one quarter (nine weeks).
- Option 3: Blended Model (On-Site and Virtual/Distance)
 - Based on need/circumstances. Administrative approval required.
 - Option available for unique situations that may need both formats.
 - Teacher will support instruction through Edgenuity/Odysseyware and Istation.
 - Participation in athletics and/or extracurricular activities possible by request.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up of Students

- Students are not allowed into the classroom buildings until 7:00 a.m.
- Student drop-off and pick-up procedures will be the same as the 2022-23 school year. PreK and K students will be dropped off curbside at the cafeteria. First through Fourth Grade students will be dropped off at the New Elementary Building. Fifth through Eighth Grade students will be dropped off at the main building. Staff will be stationed inside and outside of the drop-off points to assist students.
- Buses will load prior to parent pick-up. Please be respectful of this procedure. Pick-up for students will occur at the building location of the student. First through Fourth Grade students will be picked up at the New Elementary Building, PreKindergarten and Kindergarten students will be picked up at the Early Childhood Building, and Fifth through Eighth Grade students will be picked up at the Main Building. Pick-up vehicles will make a circular loop passing through Gym Parking lot and by the New Elementary Building, Early Childhood Building, and then the Main Building.

COVID-19 Best Practices in K-12 Schools

The CDC has provided guidance to support safe in-person learning. This includes strategies for everyday operations. It is recommended that schools take a variety of actions every day to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The following set of strategies are recommended by the CDC.

- Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations: Vaccine information is available upon request.
- Staying Home When Sick: Those with symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home.
- Ventilation: Optimize ventilation and maintain improvements to indoor air quality to reduce the risk of germs and contaminants spreading through the air.
- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette: Proper handwashing can prevent the spread of infectious diseases and lower the risk of spreading viruses. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer is available. Cover coughs and sneezes to help from getting and spreading infectious diseases.
- Cleaning: Surfaces cleaned at least once a day to reduce risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. Follow recommended procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection.

The following is the latest information/guidance from the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH):

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is beginning its transition toward the endemic phase of this pandemic. In doing so, we will publish COVID-19 data once a week, on Thursday. By releasing data weekly, Oklahomans will get a better picture of what is happening throughout the state. The weekly report will contain a seven day average of new cases based on collection date of the specimen or symptom onset occurring the previous week. Data released in the report is preliminary and subject to change if additional information is obtained by OSDH.

The key metrics reported in our weekly report, the seven day average of new cases and 3-day average of hospitalizations, more accurately represent the impact of disease in the community. As we begin the gradual transition toward the endemic phase of the pandemic, the OSDH stands well equipped to battle future possible surges and, if seen fit, can adjust reporting as needed.

Personal Health and Safety Mitigation Strategies

• Masks

It is a high priority of Briggs Public Schools to promote health and safety in our learning and working environments so that our students can remain in full-time, in-person learning with layered prevention strategies in place. Masks are one of our best prevention strategies. Briggs Public Schools will provide a mask to ANY student, staff member, or visitor that wants a mask.

- **At-Home COVID-19 Tests**

The District has obtained at-home COVID-19 tests that are available to students and staff. The at-home tests must be administered by an adult for students aged 14 and under. Parents are encouraged to request an at-home test for students from District staff if needed.

- **Temperature Checks**

Random temperature checks may be performed for students upon entering the school facilities and periodically during the school day. Students with a fever of 100.4° or higher may not be allowed to attend school.

- **Visitors**

As an added layer of safety and security, only staff and students will have unrestricted entry into the buildings. Visitor access may be restricted. Visitors may wish to call ahead and make appointments.

- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

Washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently is one of the easiest ways to protect against infection. Throughout the school day, students will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to eating, and especially after sneezing, coughing, or blowing their nose. Students and staff members will also have access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer in classrooms and other common areas and are expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands throughout the day.

- **Cleaning Protocols**

During the school day, staff may clean commonly touched surfaces inside classrooms, while maintenance personnel will clean commonly touched surfaces in common areas. At the end of each scheduled event or school day, the District's cleaning contractor will clean frequently touched surfaces and objects. An approved disinfectant agent is also periodically sprayed throughout school facilities to aid in sanitization.

- **Air Filters**

Improved heating, ventilation, and air conditioner filters have been installed in all District buildings. Filters will be periodically changed to improve air quality.

- **Water Fountains**

The school site is equipped with water bottle filling stations. Students and staff members are encouraged to bring and refill non-breakable water containers (water bottles). The school may provide water bottles if needed.

- **School Transportation (Busing)**

Briggs has resumed traditional bus transportation. Occasionally some windows on buses may remain open to promote the circulation of fresh air. Due to open windows, expect higher or lower inside bus temperatures and the prevalence of dust in some situations.

- **Child Nutrition**

The cafeteria will operate normally. Breakfasts will continue to be delivered and served in classrooms as “grab-and-go” meals except for PreKindergarten/Kindergarten students who will receive their breakfast in the cafeteria. Lunches will be served in the cafeteria with expanded serving times. Students will still have three options for lunch on most days: entrée, fast food, or salad. The dining tables are disinfected between group servings. Meal service is only available to enrolled Briggs students. In the event of a school closure, it is anticipated that all Briggs students will have access to meals for pick-up and we will attempt to provide delivery options. Supper will be provided to students in the After School Program.

- **Athletics and Other Extra-Curricular Activities**

Athletics and other extra-curricular activities are scheduled as normal. Extra measures are being taken to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies

Students receiving special education services will be provided modifications and accommodations per their Individual Education Plan (IEP). When necessary, District health and safety policies not addressed by a student’s IEP will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students’ Individualized Education Plans may include a contingency plan for extended periods of virtual/distance learning.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

Cherokee County Health Department, Cherokee Nation Health Services, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health provide support and resources to the District in areas of health and safety. The District remains in contact with the Cherokee County Health Department, Cherokee Nation Health Services, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health concerning COVID-19 guidelines and safety protocols enacted in our state and local area.

Mental Health and Wellness

Briggs Public Schools provides resources to help support the mental health and well-being of students and staff. Our students have access to counseling at school and by licensed counselors provided through a partnership with community mental health agencies. In addition, students will participate in the Getting Along Together (GAT) social-emotional learning program from Success for All (SFA) as part of the SFA Whole School Reform Program.

Attendance

Briggs believes that attendance in regularly scheduled classes is a key factor in student achievement. However, it is important for those students who are ill to stay home when sick. We recognize that the extracurricular program of the school also has educational benefit. Therefore, it shall be the policy of this board to minimize absenteeism from regular classes while providing students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

Virtual/Distance Learning and Attendance

Students choosing the Virtual/Distance Learning option and/or students transitioned to Virtual/Distance Learning due to school closure will not be considered absent from school if:

- They are not physically present at school but are completing work in a distance learning program or virtual online program approved by the school district and are meeting the following attendance requirements:
 - The student has completed instructional activities for no less than ninety (90%) of the time that services were provided in a virtual or distance learning format. Instructional activities may include online logins to curriculum or programs, offline activities, completed assignments, testing, face-to-face communications or meetings with school personnel via teleconference, videoconference, email, text, or phone,
 - The student is on pace for on-time completion of the course as required by the school district,
 - The student has completed instructional activities within the time that services were provided in a virtual or distance learning format during the academic year; or
- They have a medical condition that incapacitates the student and precludes them from participating in instruction in a traditional school setting and the student is able to progress in instruction via alternative education delivery methods approved by the local board of education.

Conclusion

The previous recommendations in this document must not be interpreted as a substitute for close consultation with local, regional, and state health agencies and experts. Moreover, circumstances will vary from school to school and district to district. Briggs School, OSDE, and educators across Oklahoma must remain vigilant, monitor data, and stay in close communication with public health experts. Briggs will make provisions as necessary for the safety of the life, health, and welfare of our students, families, and staff.

Briggs Board of Education

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