

Extended School Year Plan and Protocols

Bethel Public Schools

We will be offering Extended School Year (ESY) services for students with disabilities between July 6, 2020 and August 7, 2020. Services will be modified to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

In cases in which high-quality instruction can be delivered remotely, virtual services will be provided. Examples include: decoding instruction, or credit recovery for high school students. Synchronous (or “live”) instruction will be provided to individual students or small groups. Asynchronous instruction, such as videos or other learning activities, may also be provided to enhance student learning.

A modified in-person program will be provided to a limited number of students with disabilities. This program will be offered for 2 hours daily at Berry Elementary School. Procedures for the in-person program are as follows:

Medical Professionals

- All procedures have been reviewed with the district medical advisor, Dr. Jamie Alon, and approved by the local Director of Health, Laura Vasile.
- A school nurse will be present for the entirety of school operating hours to manage positive and suspected cases of COVID-19.

Visitors

- No visitors will be allowed in the school building.

Snacks and Meals

- No snacks will be permitted at ESY.
- Water fountains will not be accessible.
- Students may bring a bottle of water with them to school. Disposable bottles of water will be available for students who do not bring their own bottle

Class Grouping and Social Distancing

- Group size in every classroom will be limited to 10 individuals; this includes students, instructional staff, and support staff.
- Staff will work in consistent teams, to minimize cross-contamination between groups.
- Related services staff will restrict their services to 1 or 2 classrooms per day.
- At least six feet of distance will be maintained between individuals in the classroom.

- Each student will be assigned their own area for the belongings, as well as their own desk or work space.
- Each student will be assigned their own materials, such as pencils, toys, and instructional materials.
- Students will use a bathroom assigned to their class.

Playground

- Students will not use the playground or playground equipment.

Cleaning and Hygiene

- Windows will be open when possible for air flow.
- Staff and students will engage in frequent handwashing.
- Staff will be trained in hygiene practices by the nurse supervisor prior to the start of ESY.
- Students will be taught handwashing and other hygiene protocols (e.g. covering a cough in the corner of the elbow) by their teacher, in an appropriate way that considers the developmental level and needs of each child.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.
- All materials (e.g., pencils, toys, computers) will be cleaned and disinfected by classroom staff at the end of the school day.
- Furniture and high touch services (e.g., door knobs) will be cleaned and disinfected by school custodians at the end of the school day.
- Bathrooms will be sanitized at the end of the school day. School custodians will also wipe down bathroom surfaces periodically throughout the day.
- Signs will be posted to communicate cleaning and hygiene protocols, in easily seen locations.

Personal Protective Equipment

- All students and staff will wear cloth face masks.
- Face masks will be provided by the district for students who do not have a mask.
- Masks will not be required if a student has a health concern or disability that precludes them from wearing a mask.
- Some students require direct contact from staff, because they cannot socially distance due to the nature of their disabilities, or due to specific health care needs (e.g., toileting). In these cases, staff will wear additional protective equipment, including:
 - Gloves
 - Gowns
 - Surgical masks
 - Face shields (worn with face mask)
- Staff will change their personal protective equipment if it becomes soiled.

- Trash cans for soiled protective equipment will be located in bathrooms and outside the door of each classroom.
- Staff will be trained in the use and disposal of personal protective equipment by the nurse supervisor prior to the start of ESY.

Transportation

- Parents/guardians are requested to arrange transportation for their children to and from school, as this is the safest option.
- School start and end times will be staggered in order to maximize social distancing.
- Students taking the bus will be seated no more than 1 student per row (unless from the same household), in a diagonal formation.
- Students and adults will wear face masks while riding the bus.
- A bus monitor will be present on each bus to ensure social distancing and other safety procedures. The bus monitor will wear a mask and face shield.
- The bus will be cleaned and disinfected after each run.

Health Screening

- All staff and students will have their temperature taken with a “touchless” thermometer, prior to boarding the bus or entering the school. All individuals must have a temperature below 100 degrees.
- Parents will complete and sign a daily health checklist. Copies will be provided at the beginning of ESY. A completed checklist indicating good health is required to board the bus or enter the school.
- Specific instructions for parent pick up and drop off are as follows:
 - Students will remain in the car, with a mask on, until their temperature is verified and the staff member has the completed checklist.
 - Parents/guardians will remain in the car at both pick up and drop off. Staff members will walk students in and out of the school building.

Monitoring and Closing School

- Students who demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19 at school will be isolated with a staff member until a parent/guardian is able to pick them up.
- School closing decisions will be made by the Superintendent in collaboration with the local health department.
- If we need to close our schools due to a case of COVID-19, distance learning opportunities will be made available to students.