

Back to Buildings Update

APRIL 30, 2021 DISTRICT

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Back to Buildings Update

Bellevue School District (BSD) is continuing to work on creating additional in-person opportunities for students this spring, while also planning for a full reopen of our schools in the fall.

We know for many of our families, there is an urgent desire for all students to return to our classrooms with a pre-pandemic schedule. We understand the frustration and the desire for students to return to our classrooms. We are balancing the needs of our students with the realities of public health concerns and keeping all students and staff safe. Please know that both BSD, the Bellevue Education Association (BEA) and our other labor partners are working together to continue re-opening schools.

As of this week, we are serving approximately 13,000 students in person, which is about 67% of our school population. We are also serving about 6,500 students who have opted to continue learning remotely full time this year.

We are also thrilled to see our student athletes competing again this spring, as well as students able to participate in music and the arts.

Looking Ahead: Planning for the 2021-22 School Year

BSD is working now on a full reopening for the fall, providing public health guidelines allow. We are anticipating a three-foot physical distancing in our classrooms. Visit our website under the **Looking Ahead** banner to see the latest plan and information as it's developed. Here's a timeline of our work leading up to the fall full reopening.

April-May:

- Fall Implementation Planning teams convene to design plans for a fall full reopening
- Planning for summer school
- Planning for 2021-22 virtual school for grades 6-12, survey to families
- Secondary schools begin the master schedule process, assigning students to classes

June:

- Identify any requirement to bargain with labor groups in preparation for back to school for the fall with different bargaining groups
- Fall 2021 reopening plan submitted to OSPI, district and community
- Preschool summer programs start

July-August:

- Summer school programs start
- Finalize student schedules, transportation, staff training, final classroom and school building readiness
- August 27 and August 30: Staff in buildings to prepare for students

September:

- Wednesday, September 1: first day of school for grades 1-12
- Tuesday, September 7: first day of kindergarten (tentative date, working with our labor partners to potentially move the date because of a conflict with the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashana)

Virtual School for 2021-22 School Year

We know that for some students, remote learning may still be a safety necessity during these pandemic times. Bellevue School District is planning to fully reopen schools in the fall and will also offer a new one-year virtual option for secondary students who need to stay remote.

The Bellevue School District Virtual Academy is an online public-school option for up to 500 students in grades 6 through 12, who are looking for an alternative educational option due to safety concerns generated by the continued transmission of COVID-19 in the community. The program will be available for the 2021-22 school year. Families with students now in grades 5-11 who are interested in a virtual program next fall will be asked to complete an enrollment request form. This information is only for families who intend to have students learn virtually and not in-person in the fall. Information for elementary school families is forthcoming.

Now Enrolling Kindergarten for the Fall

With our plans for a full return to buildings in the fall, we are now enrolling students for our preschool and kindergarten classes. If you have or know of a student who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, they can now enroll in kindergarten. Learn how to enroll a student here: <https://bsd405.org/schools/kindergarten/>

King County: COVID-19 Reopening Phase 3

King County is in Phase 3 of the state's Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery Plan. As of April 28, there were 236 new **positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people in King County in the past 14 days**. For more details, visit <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

If numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to increase and King County moves back from Phase 3 to Phase 2, we do not anticipate that change will impact our in-person learning. Gov. Jay Inslee has made in-person learning access a priority in the Roadmap to Recovery Plan, and BSD has safety and mitigation measures in place at our schools.

Learn more at <https://bsd405.org/BacktoBuildings>

Let's Talk! with BSD

BSD utilizes *Let's Talk!* to exchange messages with families. Find messaging options on our [website](#).

Please contact staff at your student's school about schedules, attendance and any other school-specific questions or concerns. Visit <https://bsd405.org> and select **Schools** in the top menu to find your school.

Was this Message Informative?

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