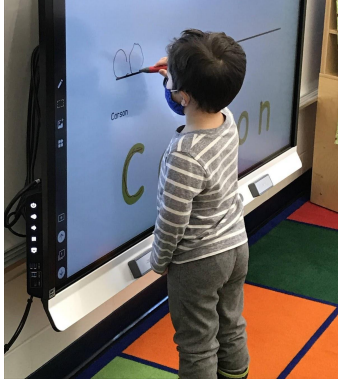


Brooklyn Public Schools

Continuity of Services *DRAFT* Plan for 2021-22, Rev. 2/2022 based on new guidance from the State of Connecticut, February 15, 2022

Reimagining Schools to Transform Students' Lives Preschool to 8th Grade



The Brooklyn Public Schools has developed a DRAFT plan in accordance with the Connecticut State Department of Education's requirement for use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Emergency and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

This will build upon the 2020-2021

[Brooklyn Public School's Draft Reopening Plan](#)

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together.

Date of Submission:	May 29, 2021 Rev. 3 2/2022
LEA Name:	Brooklyn Public Schools
Plan Point of Contact:	Patricia L. Buell, Superintendent
Contact Email:	buell@brooklynschools.org
Contact Phone:	860-774-9732 X1
LEA COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison:	Amy Barrette, Brooklyn Elementary School Nurse Sherry MacFarland, Brooklyn Middle School Nurse
Liaison Email:	abarrette@brooklynschools.org macfarland@brooklynschools.org

Brooklyn Public Schools

is committed to addressing the academic, social, emotional, mental health and food services of our students and staff.

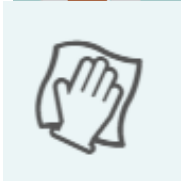


Student achievement and the social and emotional well being of our students, families and staff will remain a focus as we plan for the coming school year and 100% in person learning.



Masks are permitted in schools. Families/employees should review the recommendations by CDC and DPH to determine what is the best choice for their children/themselves.

CT Executive Order 13g has changed the decision making regarding required masking away from a State mandate. They recommend reviewing CDC and DPH recommendations.



We will follow cleaning protocols especially in high touch areas and bathrooms. Surfaces treated with TiCoat only require cleaning with a cloth and light soap mixture.



We will continue to create well ventilated classrooms by opening windows before, during and after the instructional day. Outdoor learning opportunities will be used as often as possible.



With mask requirements changing, we want to be sure we continue to encourage frequent hand washing and students will be taught proper ways to wash and cover their coughs.



CDC and DPH continue to advocate that vaccinations are highly effective at reducing severe illnesses, hospitalizations and death. Our local Department of Health, NDDH, offers ongoing vaccinations at no cost.



Students and staff should remain home when they are sick or have symptoms or illnesses such as fever, cough, sneezing or runny nose, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, sore throat, aches or Headache. Students being assessed by the school nurse with COVID symptoms may be required to wear a mask for the well being of the nurse and others.



Masks are required on all public transportation per federal requirement until at least March 15, 2022. Bus drivers will have masks available for students who need one and will ask students to wear them upon boarding.

Brooklyn Public Schools

COVID TESTS and Quarantine Period: The district will distribute COVID test kits to individuals who have symptoms while supplies last. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 are asked to:

- Report the case to the school nurse.
- Quarantine/isolate for five days from a positive test or symptoms. The first day of symptoms or positive test results are considered day zero.
- Students and staff may return to school/work after five days of quarantine and no fever for 24 hours. Symptoms must be substantially improved, to minimize risk of transmission to others. Individuals who are positive must wear a mask through day 10.

2/18/22 News Release DPH and SDE Guidance: [Transitioning to a Model of Routine Respiratory Disease Prevention and Enhanced Outbreak Management and Control for COVID-19 in PreK-12 School Settings](#)

- **Enhanced mitigation strategies** for surge response and outbreak control Surges in community spread of COVID-19 due to the emergence of new variants, waning immunity, and/or other factors can be expected to occur periodically, likely seasonally, and can have an impact on the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools.
- **Brooklyn Public Schools will monitor illness within the school and in the community.** School absenteeism, especially due to respiratory illness, or an increase in reported cases of COVID-19 among students and/or staff may indicate a COVID-19 outbreak within a school or district. Brooklyn Public Schools will remain in contact with NDDH should there be a suspicion of a COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Recommended COVID-19 school outbreak response strategies** may include:
 - Implementing a local universal masking policy for students and staff on a temporary basis by class, grade or school. This would be done in consultation with NDDH/DPH.
 - Changes in cohorting
 - Limiting outside visitors to the school to those who are necessary for instructional or student support purposes.
 - Notifying potentially exposed students and staff: while individual contact tracing does not need to occur, students, staff, and families will be notified of cases over the first three weeks when the mask requirement is lifted by the State and then will be informed of outbreaks occurring within their classroom, grade, or school level depending on ongoing cases and extent of transmission.
- **Other:** Specific distancing is not required, masks are not required, except on buses until at least March 15, 2022 but these strategies should still be practiced while the pandemic is shifting to the endemic phase and is still present and is still highly transmissible.

2/18/2022 News Release DPH and SDE Guidance: [Considerations for Boards of Education, District Administrators, and other Local Decision-Makers Regarding Potential Changes to School COVID-19 Policies and Practices](#)

Travel Advisory: CT Department of Health references [CDC guidance](#) which was updated on 1/27/2022. The school does NOT require quarantining after travel to return to school.

Brooklyn Public Schools

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Brooklyn Public Schools

Updated Message from the Superintendent

February 2022

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

I am pleased to report that the layers of mitigation strategies have been adjusted to reflect the current status of COVID-19. We have endured the shutdown of schools, businesses and the impact on our families and businesses. We have made every effort to provide in-person teaching and learning and have not needed to cancel school due to COVID or lack of staffing. While the virus is still present, our hospitalization rates and death rates have improved recently. The current virus is generally less severe and the numbers of vaccinated students and staff continues to increase, reducing the more serious outcomes of this virus.

As of February 28, 2022 the Governor's executive order to mandate masking has been dropped. At the State level they have determined that universal masking is no longer necessary. They consult with the Centers for Disease Control, State Department of Health, the Office of Early Childhood and the State Department of Education. Together they have determined that our response to the pandemic has been successful and we are ready to move forward with local decisions about masking. This revision reflects the recommendations of the State and local officials.

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 the use of American Recovery Plan (ARP) funding and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds will be used 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 third revision.

The health and safety of our students, staff and community will remain our first priority as we continue to educate our students and find the most effective way to close learning gaps that may have occurred during the various learning models. 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 but make them optional. All families who wish to send their child with a facemask are encouraged to do so. Staff are not responsible to enforce mask wearing but will offer reminders. 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: We have not made changes to this section of our plan.

The purpose of this funding is to support the unfinished learning, or learning loss of our students due to COVID. The funds are to be used to offer evidenced-based summer enrichment programs 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

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

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

District Continuity Plan Stakeholders

Information will be 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 are seeking feedback on successes and challenges over the last 16 months 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:

The Brooklyn Board of Education agrees with the plan to offer only in person learning. Resources have been used to increase instructional coaching and interventions. The focus of the 2021-22 school year has been to monitor instructional practices, pacing and student progress. Our cycles of data have supported the intervention cycles and necessary changes based on the response to student progress.

Our priorities when determining how to use grant funding was to ensure that all students receive a 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 past year 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:

2021-22 Grant Funds:

	<u>ESSER</u>	<u>ARP</u>
1. Curriculum, Assessment and Acceleration Summer Academy, K Camp, Transportation, P &Rec Camp, Curriculum writing	\$113,000	\$175,000
2. Instruction and Intervention After school clubs, Staff: SE, Intervention, Instructional materials	\$267,376	\$10,080
3. SRBI and Data Analysis Professional Development, Data Analysis	\$7,200	\$15,000
4. Social Emotional and Academic Learning Universal Screening DESSA State Pilot, no cost	NA	NA
5. Technology, Staff and Access Staff, Chromebooks, Hotspots, Hardware, Software	\$11,443	\$389,222
6. Public Health Protocols and Mitigation Strategies TiCoating, Sanitizer, Fountain Install, PPE	NA	\$55,000

2022-23 Grant Funds:

	<u>ESSER</u>	<u>ARP</u>
1. Curriculum, Assessment and Acceleration Summer Academy, 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

Brooklyn Public Schools

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.

In summary, as of 2/28/22 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. Face coverings are required under federal guidelines on buses at least until March 15, 2022. Face masks will be offered to students as they board the bus but drivers will not be able to safely enforce this and drive.
4. Social distancing should still be considered a mitigation strategy and individuals should consider their risk when determining distance from others.
5. Students and staff will use additional distancing when eating in school.
6. Students and staff are required to follow good hand hygiene by washing or disinfecting hands frequently.
7. 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.
8. Daily notifications will be made about COVID cases until 3/18 and if cases continue to decline we will limit communication to outbreaks if necessary.
9. Students who wear masks all day long may request or be offered a mask break.
10. If COVID positive, individuals must quarantine 5 days, may return once fever free 24 hours, symptoms are substantially better, and must wear a mask through day 10.

Brooklyn Public Schools

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.

The Brooklyn Public Schools have scheduled custodial staff to address recommended cleaning protocols. We will continue to:

1. Limited number of students in bathrooms. No use of air hand dryers
2. Bathrooms will be cleaned a minimum of twice daily.
3. Shared surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Academic Acceleration

The Brooklyn Public Schools offered Summer Academy to students during 2021. We are considering how to achieve greater outcomes for the summer of 2022 through a different model. **More information will be provided shortly, but we are considering a different model to include tutoring and more individualized instruction through the use of online programs.**

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 or support will have their needs addressed through IEP, 504 or EL support plans. Special education students participated in extended school year services or Summer Academy to address grade level content.

Instruction During Quarantine

Students will be instructed to access Google Classroom for remote learning during periods of quarantine. The district will support a one to one learning environment for all students and teach students annually how to access their Google Classroom and online learning software. Young students will not have to transport their devices to and from school on a daily basis. 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.

Brooklyn Public Schools

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. As we plan for the 2021-22 school year we look forward to welcoming more families into the school again. We will continue to follow all safety protocols to ensure that students and staff are safe and that we are able to maintain healthy schools.

The Brooklyn Superintendent and Board of Education follow guidance that is provided through the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) about proper protocols to follow when opening the building to families and outside groups. As we learned during the last year, **this guidance can change quickly based on the level of virus in the school or in the community and we pledge to communicate any changes to our protocols as quickly as possible.** We are looking forward to the time that we will have our doors open to parents and families without restrictions.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

We all focused on the SEL needs of students, families and staff during the last 23 months. We had hoped that this year would be emotionally an easier year for everyone but it continues to be stressful for many as there have been MANY more people who have gotten sick this year than did last year. We want to encourage students, families and staff to speak up during difficult times and will try to connect people with support as needed.

Kindergarten Camp and PK Orientation: 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 through the next school year. EASTCONN Food Services will be running the school cafeteria program. **We do not know if this will continue past June 2022. More information will be provided once it is finalized.**

If at any time students are required to quarantine or the district should have to offer remote learning for an extended period, we will make every effort to offer meals for distribution to children in Brooklyn as soon as possible.

Transportation

Brooklyn Public Schools contracts with EASTCONN to offer bus service to all school aged students. We will review bus routes bi-annually to spread students out as much as possible on buses. Students and drivers are required to wear masks on the bus at all times, **at least until 3/15/22.** This requirement is for the health and safety of the entire bus.

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:

2021-2022: Nurse: [Amy Barrette](#), Brooklyn Elementary School P: 860-774-4618
Nurse: [Sherry MacFarland](#), Brooklyn Middle School P: 860-774-1498

School Personnel:

Brooklyn Elementary School Office: 860-774-7577
Brooklyn Middle School Office: 860-774-9153
Office of Superintendent Office: 860-774-9732

Parent Volunteers: Meaghan Wakely, Amy Proulx Landis

Community Volunteers: Diane Wimmer

Staff Volunteers: Denise Nault, Melissa Violette

Administration: Paula Graef, Heather Tamsin, Barbara-Jean Toth, Mark Weaver, Josh Torchia

School Nurses: Amy Barrette, Sherry MacFarland

District Website: www.brooklynschools.org/announcements

Brooklyn's Continuity of Services DRAFT Plan for 2021-2022 Revision Dates

Review/revise by:

- **June 23, 2021, December 23, 2021, June 23, 2022, December 23, 2022, June 23, 2024**

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