

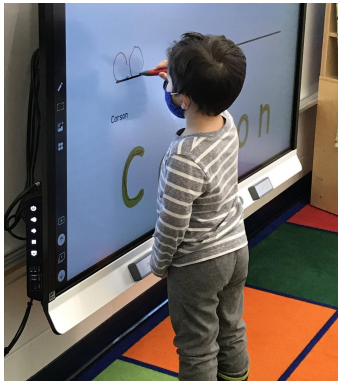
# Brooklyn Public Schools

## Continuity of Services *DRAFT* Plan

for 2021-22, Rev. 8/2021

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
LEA Name:	Brooklyn Public Schools
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is committed to addressing the academic, social, emotional, mental health and food services of our students and staff.

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

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**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.**



**We follow universal and correct wearing of masks as required based on CDC and DPH guidance. This will change pending guidance from DPH or the State Department of Education (SDE). ALL individuals who wish to wear a mask, even if they are not required to do so are welcome to wear a mask. [Executive Order 13A](#)**



**We will follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols especially in high touch areas and bathrooms.**



**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.**



**Frequent hand washing will be promoted and students will be taught proper ways to wash and cover their coughs.**



**Vaccination efforts will be made to ensure staff and eligible students have access to vaccinations. Brooklyn will work with NDDH and DPH to provide access and notification of vaccination clinics. \*Staff vaccination/testing requirements are changing and will be addressed through staff communications. [Executive Order 13D](#)**



**We will support modified physical distancing and cohorting for the 21-22 school year to facilitate quick contact tracing and will follow CDC and DPH guidelines for quarantining of sick students and staff and follow guidance about quarantining after travel. Any suspected cases in school will be isolated to reduce transmission.**

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**Guidance on facemasks:** Latest Guidance from State of Connecticut:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Latest-COVID-19-Guidance>

Reference document from May 19, 2021

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/Community\\_Resources/Vaccinations/Print-Materials/Fact-Sheets/COVID\\_Rules\\_Vaccinated.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/Community_Resources/Vaccinations/Print-Materials/Fact-Sheets/COVID_Rules_Vaccinated.pdf)

**American Academy of Pediatrics:**

[https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/?fbclid=IwAR2Nf5PdjTGUCk\\_ZE6guJOX7mSXJIm-cADBds01N4OheLkNT-lwe2n0\\_h6c](https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/?fbclid=IwAR2Nf5PdjTGUCk_ZE6guJOX7mSXJIm-cADBds01N4OheLkNT-lwe2n0_h6c)

**Connecticut Children's Hospital:** What should parents know about the Delta Variant

<https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/coronavirus/what-should-parents-know-about-the-delta-variant-kids-and-back-to-school/>

**Travel Advisory:** CT Guidelines <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Travel> recommends self-quarantine and references the CDC travel guidelines.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html#after-you-travel>

**Vaccinations:** Currently vaccinations are recommended and available for all 12 and older. Brooklyn will be offering a vaccination clinic at BMS on August 4th from 4-6PM. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

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## Message from the Superintendent

August 2021

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

I hope that each of you has enjoyed the summer and has had time to enjoy the outdoors and time doing things that make you happy! This summer we enjoyed having so many students at the school during Summer Academy and Camp! Many staff members have been busy preparing the facilities, the curricula and plans for a return to academics and student acceleration. The message of acceleration is about moving forward in the next academic year! While COVID slowed us down and challenged us to think about educating students differently, during the 21-22 school year we will take our prior knowledge and grow our teaching and learning for every child. This is an exciting time and we will continue to plan for a successful school year with healthy measures in place to strive to achieve our goal of 100% in-person learning all year and academic success for our students!

The Brooklyn Board of Education has determined that all students will be offered an in person education option only. Locally and globally we have experienced a variety of learning loss or learning gaps as a result of COVID-19 and 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.

The health and safety of our students, staff and community will remain our first priority as we open school for the 2021-2022 school year. 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 include the use of face masks, maximizing physical distancing, addressing SEL needs of students, use of outdoor learning spaces, increased ventilation in classrooms, proper hand washing, cleaning and quarantining as required to reduce the spread of the virus.

Thank you for your support and contribution to the future of our students! Brooklyn should be very proud of their schools!

Patricia L. Buell,  
Superintendent

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## **Grant Funding**

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.

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## District Priorities:

Over the past 16 months we have learned a great deal about educating students through a pandemic. We have benefitted from other grant funds to provide an equitable education to students both at home and in school. As we prepare for the 2021-22 school year, the State Department of Education has confirmed that each district does not need to offer 180 day distance learning options to all students. The Brooklyn Board of Education agrees with the plan to offer only in person learning. The State Legislature is considering distance learning options they may offer to students across the State of Connecticut but until the legislative session is complete, we are unsure what those options will be.

Our priorities when determining how to use this funding are 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	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

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## **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
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

There are approximately \$235,000 ARP funds that are to be determined and may change based on needs that develop.

## **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.

## **We plan to begin the school year with the following mitigation measures in place:**

- 1. Students and staff should stay home if they feel sick.**
- 2. Families and staff should continue to complete the daily checklist to see if any new symptoms appear.**
- 3. Face coverings must be worn by all individuals who enter the school, at all times when in the school or on the school bus.**
- 4. We will maintain social distancing whenever possible.**
- 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 and before sharing objects.**



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7. **Anyone with symptoms will contact the school nurse and follow current CDC guidance regarding testing or quarantining.**
8. **The district will ask parents to follow DPH and CDC guidance on travel quarantine.**
9. **School nurses will work in coordination with the District Consulting Physician, Northeast District Department of Health, DPH and CDC to conduct contact tracing and quarantine recommendations.**
10. **District administration will participate in DPH and State Department of Education communications to ensure that Brooklyn Public Schools follow recommendations based on the changing COVID situation.**

## **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 have strategically placed students in the building in cohorts to reduce students in multiple cohorts, will monitor passing in the halls and identify specific bathroom protocols to reduce the spread of COVID in the school.

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.
4. Students will be permitted to pass in the hallways to get to different classrooms.

## **Academic Acceleration**

The Brooklyn Public Schools offered Summer Academy to students. Student achievement data is being analyzed for those who participated. Specific priority standards and assessments and social activities were addressed to support learning acceleration and promote social interaction.

School schedules will return to a pre-pandemic schedule. BES and BMS instructional day will be from 8:30-3:15. Parents and buses drop students off at 8:30. Parent drop off is still encouraged and will follow the same drop off routine, location and schedule.

**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

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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.

## 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)

During the 2020-21 school year staff addressed the social emotional learning and equity issues at Brooklyn Elementary and Brooklyn Middle Schools. They made significant efforts to ensure that students and staff emotional needs were addressed while meeting the academic needs of students. We will continue to coordinate efforts to ensure that we address the emotional and academic needs of students who have already returned to the public schools as well as the needs of students who have yet to return to school since March of 2020 or are entering our schools for the first time.

**Kindergarten Camp and PK Orientation:** We look forward to bringing kindergarten students into the school and providing an orientation to the buildings and staff before the first day of school. Incoming preschoolers will receive their orientation during a visitation on the

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first day of school. Parents of students at other grade levels who will not be participating in Summer Academy or who may just need a visit to the schools over the summer are encouraged to contact the building principal and schedule an appointment for a tour this summer.

We know that we need to address the social and emotional needs of students before we can maximize their learning. We continue to be committed to the whole child and will work with groups or individuals who need additional support as they return to school next year.

## **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.

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. This requirement is for the health and safety of the entire bus. If there is a positive case on a bus, it is likely that the entire bus will be quarantined.

## **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. In the event of a positive case in the district, we will follow additional cleaning procedures to reduce the risk of transmission.

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.

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## 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](http://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.