

## **SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**

(1) IN GENERAL - A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency's website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d) (1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

*For each mitigation strategy listed below, please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.*

### **LEA Response Table**

#### **1) Universal and correct wearing of masks**

All students and staff have the option to wear masks if they want but mask wearing is not required at this time.

Free masks are available to students and staff on each of the buses and from the security offices on campus. Unless we hear otherwise from the state, we expect to continue to implement the same policy.

#### **2) Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)**

Currently physical distance is not required. Classes are conducted without restriction, but BelovED continues to ensure that health and safety remain a top priority. BelovED will continue to monitor NJDOH and NJDOE guidelines and adjust accordingly.

#### **3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Students are encouraged to wash hands after using the bathroom. Teachers instruct students in proper methods for hand washing and for using their elbows to cover their mouths for sneezes. Hand sanitizing stations are available in each room and in lobby areas. Staff and students are encouraged to use these.

Water fountains are open, and water bottle filling stations have been installed in each location. All are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles.

#### **4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Buses keep 2-3 windows on each side of the bus open to maintain air circulation while on routes..

The School HVAC system utilizes a four point system to maintain good indoor air quality:

We have installed UVC/UVV sterilization lights in the ductwork of the HVAC system to deactivate or kill any microorganisms that may find their way into the airstream.

The HVAC system removes excess humidity from the air to maintain a comfortable learning environment.

We have installed MERV 13 filters in our central HVAC system.

Our system also has economizers that are constantly bringing fresh air into our system.

Our restrooms and high touch areas are cleaned multiple times during the day by in-house staff. We have a professional cleaning company that comes in at night to clean and sterilize the facilities. After the space is cleaned, high touch areas are sprayed with an electrostatic sprayer containing disinfectant.

#### **5) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

Attendance records are kept of which students are on each bus route. Attendance records are kept for students by class so that we know which students have been exposed to one another.

Contact tracing has been lifted as those in close contact do not have to quarantine.

#### **6) Diagnostic and screening testing**

Currently all diagnostic and screening testing has been lifted. Parents are continually reminded of the main symptoms of COVID and asked to not send their scholar to school should they exhibit any of these symptoms. Students exhibiting symptoms are evaluated by the School nurse. If necessary, the school nurse will send scholars home and encourage them to get tested based on symptoms exhibited.

#### **7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students,**

## **if eligible**

We will continue to work with Jersey City and provide opportunities for staff and eligible students. In the past, we took advantage of Jersey City's excellent program to vaccinate school staff from both the district and charter community. Additionally, we partnered with a local hospital to have a BelovED student vaccination drive. We will continue to provide families and staff with vaccination locations throughout Jersey City.

The school had provided weekly testing on campus for all Staff. This service has stopped, but can be implemented again if necessary.

## **8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**

As per NJDOE guidance in The Road Back, we will not require students to wear face masks when the student has a documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), that precludes the use of face covering, or when a student has trouble breathing or is unconscious, or is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

## **Safe Return Plan Updated**

**Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

During summer professional development, we have been focusing on faculty team and mutual support building and on using data to support the academic and social/emotional learning of scholars at all levels of growth. Academic initiatives include expanding our RTI program; increasing school, after school and Saturday tutoring; and using Schoology so scholars in quarantine have access to all assignments and teachers.

Social-emotional and mental health initiatives include training teachers in how to support social and emotional learning during academic lesson delivery, and expanding engaging and friendship building school day and after school clubs and activities for scholars.

We offer an expanded and extended Summer School Program to ready struggling scholars for each new grade level.

If proper staffing is ever an issue due to Covid cases, the team will go remote for as short a time as possible.

**Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan.**

We invited the public to review and ask questions about our reopening plan. We then

revised our plan incorporating this valuable feedback.

Throughout the year when we have made a decision to go virtual or remain in person, we receive feedback from parents and staff, which we take into account making future decisions.

**Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.**

We are making the plan available in print in English, Spanish and Arabic, and will communicate the plan orally in English and other languages, or in alternative formats, upon the request of parents/guardians.

**Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.**

We continually seek out professional learning opportunities to assist staff with providing the best for the scholars to grow academically. We do provide parents with opportunities to have assistance with our platforms so they can use them properly when tracking their child's school work and academic growth.