



## **COVID-19 Protocols and Continuing Mitigation Plan (2021-2022)**

Balsz Elementary School District #31 administration, working with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the Governor's office, other state and local officials along with input from the Governing Board, parents and community and CDC guidance, developed the following protocols for reopening schools. The protocols that follow include recommendations for mitigation risk and will be implemented across all district sites.

### **LEARNING OPTIONS**

In the Balsz Elementary School District, students will be offered the opportunity for in person summer school. There will be a June session for K-8 which will service students in regular and special education. School year opportunities will be in person or online through the Balsz Online Academy (BOA).

### **Health Screenings, Cleaning and Disinfecting**

#### Before coming to school

- Parents should screen students for the symptoms below each morning, should self-report symptoms, and must keep students at home if symptoms are present. Students will have the opportunity to make up work missed due to symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students must not come to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:
  - Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or chills; and
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
  - Muscle aches;
  - Sore throat;
  - Headache;
  - Congestion or runny nose;
  - Cough;

- Diarrhea; or
- New loss of taste or smell

*Note: Schools will not give out attendance awards for the duration of the COVID-19 health crisis.*

### On the bus

- Students should not be sent to the bus stop if they are exhibiting the above symptoms.
- Face covering are required on school buses by federal law. For more information on the face covering order from the CDC visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html).
- Buses will be disinfected between each run during the day.
- Students will load the bus from back to front to minimize contact with other students and while unloading, the students will exit from front to back.

### At school

- Face coverings are optional.
  - Any student with visible symptoms of runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, or one who has a fever at or above 100.4 degrees, will go to the health office.
- Classrooms and offices will be provided with cleaning supplies to disinfect learning and high touch surfaces.
- Classrooms that do not have sinks will be provided with a hand sanitizer station.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at multiple places at each site.
- Each school will develop social distancing routines for traffic in hallways.
- Teachers will arrange classroom furniture to maximize the distance between students accessing playground equipment.
- Lunch service will continue in the cafeterias.
  - Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at each cafeteria.
  - Cafeteria staff will keep as much distance as possible between students.
  - Outdoor seating may be available.
  - All food will be wrapped or covered.
  - Cafeteria staff will take steps to speed up lunch lines and use touchless checkout.
  - Schools have developed procedures and schedules to help minimize the number of students in the cafeteria at one time.
- All bathrooms will remain open. Surfaces will be disinfected regularly.
- Students will be reminded to wash hands.
- Students will not share school supplies.
- Staff will continue to promote behaviors that reduce the spread.

### **Classes, Curriculum, and Special Education Services**

- Teachers will use a consistent learning platform in both school models, so that if parents opt to change their learning format at the end of the semester, students will be able to seamlessly transition back to remote learning. If a classroom needs to be quarantined, they can transition to remote learning during that time.
- Appropriate special education services will be provided per each student's IEP. Individual factors may influence which model is most appropriate and so parents should work with their child's IEP team on the best option.
- All classes will continue to be offered, although adjustments may be made to the format, capacity, etc.
- Furniture will be moved to support more spacing within sites.

### **Trips, Events and Activities**

- Traveling field trips will be scheduled based on current conditions. Summer school does not include field trips.
- Indoor, large group assemblies are based on the capacity of the facility and current conditions.
- Small group extracurricular activities will continue based on current conditions.
- Athletics will continue in accordance with guidelines published by the Arizona Interscholastic Association.
- Schools will conduct in person parent/student events based on facility capacity and current conditions.

### **Visitors to Schools**

- Nonessential visitors and volunteers are welcome based onsite capacity.

### **Training**

- All staff will be trained on implementation of these protocols.

### **Communication**

- Parents may visit [www.balsz.org](http://www.balsz.org) for up-to-date information. Please ensure contact information and preferences are current, including phone numbers for calls and text messaging and email.
- Questions should be directed to schools.



Zeek Ojeh

Acting Superintendent