



Bloomfield Public Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

2021-2022



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Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Bloomfield Public Schools family,

It is with hopefulness and eager anticipation that the Bloomfield community prepares to fully open schools in the fall of 2021. We are providing a written and complete outline of the mitigating strategies for a safe and healthy return to school and the district plan for the continuity of services upon returning. This plan has been developed in collaboration with the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District and the most recent guidance that has been provided by the Center for Disease Control, CT Department of Public Health and CT State Department of Education. Bloomfield is continually monitoring both state and community health data on a weekly basis. These protocols are subject to change based on the evolving health data. We are committed to being adaptable - listening to local, state and federal health officials' recommendations to better ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students.

Clearly, there are still challenges ahead, but our community of staff, families, students and partners are ready with optimism and a commitment to creating a nurturing and enriching learning experience for all our children in the year to come. This document – the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan – reflects the school system's adjustments to the most recent health trends. This document also reflects lessons learned during this past school year, and improves on the protocols and procedures based on feedback from our constituents. Of course, we will still adhere to the self-care protocols that kept us safe during 2020-2021:

- Completing a wellness check every morning
- Washing hands often and covering coughs
- Practicing physical distancing whenever possible
- Refraining from shaking hands and physical contact
- Creating cohorts of students into smaller groups where possible

We also understand the importance of adjusting to the needs of our students as they transition from a year of disruptions and isolation, to a full return to school. We are prepared to increase the level of social/emotional supports, tutoring, extended learning opportunities, and staff professional development to meet the challenges that our students will face upon their return to school.

Your support, patience and feedback have been – and will continue to be - much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dr. James Thompson, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

Plan Overview

This updated plan has been revised in consultation with experts, and reviewed by a number of stakeholders and partners.

- **Bloomfield / West Hartford Department of Public Health**
- **Connecticut State Department of Education**
- **Bloomfield Public Schools**

This plan will evolve and change based upon public health conditions during the 2021-2022 school year.

Our Steering Committee and subcommittees will continue to adapt and strengthen the plan. The Superintendent, Dr. James Thompson, Jr. reserves the right to make changes to this plan as necessary. Edits to the plan will be reviewed by the Board of Education, posted online at www.bloomfieldschools.org and communicated to families and community members via electronic media.

Commitment to All Students

Bloomfield's long-standing commitment to eliminating achievement/opportunity gaps remain a high priority. Our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan is designed for a safe return to school buildings for all learners, in alignment with public health data. We know that levels of virus transmission can change. For this reason, our plan reflects supporting all learners and staff with safety protocols that mitigate spread and offer safe strategies for in-person learning.

Inclusion and small group services for special education and 504 students, English Learners, and Title I students will be provided according to IEPs and district plans. Teachers will focus on providing rigorous, engaging grade-level instruction aligned with Connecticut state standards to all students. Teachers will use authentic student work samples and formative feedback to identify students' present levels and learning gaps. Building level Scientifically Researched Based Intervention (SRBI) teams will review learning needs and develop plans and strategies to meet those needs. We are well-prepared to provide on-grade level instruction while differentiating to individualize instruction.

2021-2022 All Students Return to School

We are preparing to welcome all students back to school in the fall of 2021. Safety protocols will continue to be clearly posted throughout the schools.

Schools Visitors - In an effort to protect a high percentage of unvaccinated individuals, Bloomfield Public Schools will continue to control visitors into our buildings. Parental visitations will continue to be limited. Essential service providers will be allowed to enter into

school buildings. Bloomfield will continue to hold virtual meetings to the greatest extent possible.

Limited Exceptions to In-Person Learning

Working The State Department of Education is not requiring districts to offer families the option of distance learning. Alternative learning accommodations will be implemented for only the following conditions:

1. In response to a quarantine or
2. In rare and individualized circumstances, for students with elevated risks from COVID-19 exposure or due to cohabitating family members with documented vulnerability to COVID-19.

More information about SDE guidance for remote learning can be found here: [CT State Department of Education Interim Remote Learning Guidance](#).

Health and Safety Compliance Liaison

Adjusting to Public Health Data

Working in close partnership with the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District, Bloomfield Officials, the Connecticut State Department of Health, and the Governor's Office, we are monitoring changing health conditions in our community in order to modify plans based on public health data. In the event that the spread of COVID-19 in Connecticut worsens, this document contains our plans to respond accordingly.

Health and Safety Compliance Liaison

Ms. Wendy Shepard-Bannish is the **Bloomfield Public School's COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison**. She is responsible for engaging with students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators to answer questions or concerns about health and safety requirements regarding COVID-19 and communicating up-to-date policies and procedures to all stakeholders. The Liaison is working with district and building administrators to develop and meet expectations for frequency of communication and updates to the [district website](#).

The community will be informed of any critical information or significant changes to district plans by the Liaison or the Superintendent through a combination of phone calls, emails to households, and postings on the [district website](#). Updating family contact information is a priority for reopening, parent surveys and follow-up communications from each school. The district launched online registration in early August 2020 to facilitate efficient and safe registration for all new families. Any changes to emergency contacts for families should be directed to schools or emailed to register@blmfld.org.

Operations Plan

School Building Protocols

Maximizing Distance in Classrooms

Classrooms were reconfigured to maximize space between students based upon the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) guidance. **Bloomfield will maintain a 3 feet social distancing standard (or more).** While the school district will be adhering to social distancing protocols whenever possible, there will be situations that students will not be spaced 3 or more feet apart throughout the school day. Wherever possible teachers will have a designated presentation area that is more than 3 feet from students.

Meetings and Events

At this time Hartford County and Bloomfield are designated as an areas of high transmission. In efforts to minimize the need for staff and students to quarantine due to unnecessary exposure, Bloomfield will begin the school year by hosting staff meetings, professional development, PTO and other parent events virtually to the greatest extent possible. The district will continue to monitor weekly district and county health data and adjust this plan accordingly.

Signs, Messages, and Training Protocols

Signs and messages explaining district protocols and expectations to stop the spread of disease are posted throughout our schools. These signs are age-appropriate and in languages representative of our community. Staff members will all be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supplies. Other protocols include:|

- Signs are posted in highly visible locations, such as school entrances and restrooms that describe how to stop the spread of germs (i.e. handwashing, face masks).
- Regular announcements will be made on reducing the spread of COVID-19 through the school's public announcement system.
- When communicating with families (school website, social media) messages will include health hygiene, mask wearing and social distancing habits to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- All signs and messages related to disease transmission will be accessible for students with disabilities and in languages appropriate for the school population.

In-person student instruction on school protocols, will include topics regarding expectations in health and safety practices.

Ventilation Systems

- Ventilation systems will be inspected and tested to confirm they operate properly and in accordance with health recommendations prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Maximize ventilation with outdoor air when temperature, humidity, and pollutant levels permit without impacting occupant health.
- Use outdoor instruction where safety conditions and physical space allow.

Bathroom Protocols and Cleaning

Social distancing will be maintained where possible in communal bathrooms. The following bathroom protocols will be implemented:

- Per the Department of Public Health (DPH) protocols, all bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected.
- No personal items may be stored within the bathroom (including staff bathrooms).
- Paper towels will be available and all hand dryers will be shut off.
- Trash cans will be placed near the door and students and staff will be instructed to use a paper towel to prevent touching the handle with their hands.

Water systems

- Students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water.
- Drinking fountains will be flushed and restarted for bottle filling purposes only.

Cleaning Protocols

Bloomfield Public Schools will follow all DPH guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools.

- Routine cleaning of all schools will occur on a daily basis.
- Disinfectants effective against COVID-19 that meet all Federal and State standards will be used.
- School bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Cleaning will be conducted during periods of lowest occupancy.
- Bloomfield Public Schools will follow all DPH guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools.

Daily Operations

Cohort groups

Cohorting is no longer a requirement. However, Bloomfield will continue to cohort students as an added layer of mitigation where it does not obstruct the normal functions of the school day.

Communal Spaces: Communal spaces such as cafeterias, playgrounds, auditoriums, and libraries will be cleaned and disinfected as possible between cohorts.

Outside Organizations: Use of the school facilities by outside organizations will not be permitted while Hartford County continues to be designated as an area of substantial or high transmission.

Child Nutrition

Meal Program Compliance

Breakfast and lunch, compliant with USDA guidelines, will continue to be available for all students. Eligibility for free and reduced-priced meals will be determined and meals will be made available to eligible students.

Student Meals and Food Service

The Bloomfield Schools will serve **individually plated meals in the cafeteria**, while ensuring the safety of children with food allergies. Food Services staff will use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes).

Plan for Student Food Allergies

The point-of-sale system will identify student food allergies for all students. Site Charge Staff will review student food allergies listings in advance of meal service to ensure that alternate substitute items are available.

Transportation

Bus Transportation

Masks will continue to be required on all busses. **Windows opened for proper ventilation. Students will be seated with 3 feet social distance when possible. Buses may be filled to near capacity as necessary** to transport all students to school. Disposable masks will be made available to any student boarding the bus without a mask.

Students will not use the front seat of the bus to ensure the driver is at least 3 feet from the nearest seated student when possible.

Parents are encouraged to drive their students to and from school whenever possible to enable increased social distancing on buses.

Parents must provide a week's notice when requesting that a student be added to bus transportation. Bus arrivals will remain consistent with bell times.

Health Practices and Protocols

Practices and Protocols

Standard Public Health, Hygiene Practices and Instruction

Bloomfield Public Schools will promote health and hygiene practices prioritizing keeping our students and staff safe. District-created videos, CDC videos, student-created PSAs, and posters, and classroom instruction will be used to educate students in our health protocols.

The following health and hygiene practices will be observed:

1. Hand Hygiene

- Teaching and reinforcement of hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be made available at school entrances and every classroom, kept secured in classrooms where children cannot safely use sanitizer without supervision.
- Hand washing breaks will be incorporated into all students' daily routines.

2. Respiratory Hygiene

- All students and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow.

3. Face Coverings

- All Students and staff, unless exempt by a medical professional, will be required to wear a face covering.
- Instruction on face covering use and care will be provided to all students and staff.
- Face covering breaks will be incorporated into all students' daily routines.

4. Social Distancing

- Social distancing will be maximized to the greatest extent possible with the standard goal of 3 feet where possible.

5. Provide Adequate Supplies

- All bathrooms will be supplied with adequate amounts of soap and paper towels.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided to all classrooms and student areas that do not have hand-washing stations, and will be available at the entrance of all buildings.
- All areas will be equipped with either no touch or foot-pedal trash cans.
- All students and staff will be provided with a five-day supply of cloth face coverings and extra face covering or masks will be available if needed.
- Each classroom or office area will have a supply of disinfectant wipes.
- Facial tissues will be available in each classroom or office area.

Immunizations and Health Assessments

Connecticut State Department of Education Guidance:

- Guidance from the Department of Public Health emphasizes the importance of protecting students by staying up to date with all immunizations.
- Guidance from the CSDE was issued June 26, 2020 outlining the requirements for health Assessments prior to students enrolling in school.

Required Health Assessments and Immunizations

Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-206 require a health assessment (routine physical) for each pupil enrolled in a public school prior to school enrollment, as well as in grade six or seven, and again in grade nine or ten. CSDE has encouraged keeping students in school where possible, as being in the classroom is especially important this year.

At the start of the school year, Bloomfield Public Schools will work with all students to ensure that the most recent health assessment information is obtained to ensure a healthy and safe school-learning environment. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to recommend that all students be up to date on their immunizations when school starts in the fall of 2021. Bloomfield Public Schools will notify all parents or guardians if their student is not adequately immunized and will work with parents and guardians in obtaining the required vaccines prior to the start of school. Parents or caregivers of students who are in need of vaccines are encouraged to contact their primary care physician, community health center, or the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District to schedule an appointment for vaccines. Please note as of June 23, 2021, COVID 19 vaccines are not required for students to return to in-person instruction.

In addition to required vaccines, the DPH also recommends influenza vaccine and is encouraging health practitioners to begin vaccinating as soon as possible. Infectious disease experts have expressed concern regarding COVID-19 and influenza circulating simultaneously this fall, and the influenza vaccine will help minimize the impact of this threat. The State Immunization Program will be providing the influenza vaccine to all children at no cost regardless of insurance status through the age of 18.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider to obtain the influenza vaccine and learn more about the COVID 19 vaccine.

Reporting Illnesses and Addressing Vulnerable Populations

Stay at Home Guidelines during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Bloomfield Public Schools understands that deciding when a child or staff member is too sick to go to school or work can be a difficult decision. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below and seek the advice of your health care provider. [COVID-19](#) is an illness caused by a virus that

can spread person to person. COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness. The virus is transmitted through respiratory droplets when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. The virus may also be transmitted by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or COVID-19 exposure, regardless of vaccination status, must not attend school or work and should inform the school if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms or if they have had known contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

1. COVID-19 symptoms can vary, but symptoms may include:

- Fever above 100 degrees
- Cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches/pain
- Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

If a student or staff member experiences any of the above symptoms, they should stay home and contact their health care provider for further instruction. They must also notify the school of their absence and any COVID-19 symptoms.

2. COVID-19 exposure: All individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, are encouraged to obtain a PCR test 3-5 days after their exposure.

If **vaccinated and asymptomatic**, students and staff do not need to quarantine from work, school, or away from other people if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and do not have symptoms themselves. They are still encouraged to obtain a PCR test 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask when around other people for 14 days.

If **vaccinated and symptomatic**, students and staff will be required to quarantine for ten days from onset of symptoms.

If an **unvaccinated** student or staff member has had close contact with someone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the student or staff member must remain home for 10 calendar days. Arrangements will be made for students who are absent for an extended time.

Bloomfield Public Schools will continue to support students or staff with acute or chronic health issues. Long-term absences may be evaluated if criteria are appropriate for medical leave or other potential medical accommodations under IDEA or Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

COVID-19 Daily Health Screening Questions

Bloomfield Public Schools asks that all employees and students (or their parents or guardians) to perform a self-assessment prior to leaving for school to identify fever or other COVID-19 symptoms. If the answer to any of these questions is YES, employees and students must remain home and notify the school of the absence.

<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	1. Do you have a fever (100.4 degrees or higher or feel feverish if no thermometer) without having taken fever-reducing medicine?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	2. Do you have a cough ?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	3. Do you have a new loss of taste or smell ?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	4. Do you have a sore throat ?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	5. Do you have muscle aches ?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	6. Do you have chills ?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	7. Do you have shortness of breath ?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	8. Do you have a new or unusual headache ?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	9. Have you experienced new onset of gastrointestinal symptoms , such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	10. Have you, or anyone you have been in close contact with, been diagnosed with Covid-19 or placed in quarantine for possible exposure to Covid-19 within the last two weeks?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	11. Have you been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a local public health official within the last two weeks?
<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	12. Have you travelled within the last 14 days to a location which requires self-quarantine or COVID- 19 testing according to CDC guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, you must stay home and notify the school

Social Distancing

Social Distancing

Bloomfield Public Schools will follow CDC and CSDE social distancing guidelines. If social distancing guidelines change due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID-19 disease, Bloomfield Public Schools is prepared to adjust their approach to social distancing protocols.

Social distancing will be maximized to the greatest extent possible, with the standard goal of three feet or more wherever possible. Other mitigating factors may be used when social distancing is not possible, such as face masks and clear plastic or solid surface barriers that can be cleaned and sanitized often. When social distancing and barrier use is not possible, as in the case of providing direct specialized care, health or educational assessments, or assisting a student who is not wearing a face covering (such as during lunch) staff will utilize the appropriate PPE, including, but not limited to a medical grade procedure mask and face shield when appropriate.

Material Sharing

Shared Materials

Each school will develop protocols that minimize the need to have multiple students sharing high touch materials. When limiting the sharing of materials is not possible, students will be reminded to wash or sanitize their hands in between.

Use of Face Coverings, Masks, and Face Shields

General Expectations

Face Coverings and Personal Protection

Bloomfield Public Schools will require all students and employees, while on school property and on a school bus, to wear a face covering and follow the district's [face covering protocol](#), unless otherwise exempt. This includes parents who are dropping off or picking up children. Bloomfield Public Schools will provide a face covering or mask to any student or employee who does not have one.

Face Covering: A face covering may be a cloth face covering or a face mask. Instructions for the use of face covering or masks are available from the CDC. The following individuals are exempt from this requirement per the CDC guidelines.

- Anyone for whom use of a face covering would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition. All students who are medically exempt must have written documentation provided from their physician on file with the school nurse. A Student Mask Exemption Plan will be created and on file.

Other times face coverings may be removed:

- When students or staff are eating, participating in outdoor recess, physical education or during scheduled face covering breaks. Students receiving specialized services, such as medical treatments or Speech and Language Therapy may remove their face coverings, but may be asked to wear a clear face shield during services. Social distancing will be strictly enforced during any time periods where face coverings may be removed.

Face Masks: Surgical or procedure masks will be reserved for healthcare professionals (HCP), or for staff providing direct support to students with special healthcare needs or disabilities and who cannot socially distance.

N95 Respirators: N95 respirators will be worn by school nurses who may be involved in aerosol-generating procedures, such as suctioning, providing oxygen via high-flow nasal cannula, and nebulizer treatments. School nurses must be properly fitted to the N95 respirator according to the written Respiratory Protection Plan.

Face Shields: Face shields protect the eyes, nose and mouth from contamination from respiratory droplets, along with masks and respirators. Face shields will be used by staff that is involved in aerosol-generating procedures, by staff who support students with special healthcare needs and are not able to wear a face covering, by staff assisting students who are not able to socially distance, and by staff assisting with the temperature screenings or isolation room monitoring. Students may also wear face shields during speech and language exercises when face coverings/masks are not appropriate for the activity.

Clear Plastic Barriers: A clear plastic or solid surface barrier may be used in areas where it may be difficult to maintain social distancing. (e.g. reception desks or workstations)

Protective gowns: Disposable protective gowns must be worn by staff providing aerosol-generating procedures. A protective gown may be worn by staff who support students with special healthcare needs or when there is likelihood of coming in contact with respiratory secretions or other body fluid.

Gloves: Standard Precautions will be followed by all staff with the use of disposable single use gloves when there is possible blood or body fluid contact. This includes, but is not limited to, during healthcare procedures, toileting students, assisting with meals, temperature screening, or any other instance there may be contact with a body fluid, including respiratory secretions. Gloves are not recommended unless specific responsibilities require it.

Health Monitoring Plan

Health Monitoring and Health Office Guidance

Communicable Disease Monitoring: Bloomfield Public Schools employs a Registered Nurse at each school who will manage positive and suspected cases of student and staff COVID-19 as they pertain to school attendance. Each school nurse will collaborate with the Administrative Assistants/ Attendance office to record and track symptoms and diagnosis when students/staff are called in for sick days. SNAP nursing software will be utilized for tracking purposes, and all health information will remain confidential. The School Nurse will monitor school illness symptoms and disease trends. If an unusual number of the student body or staff should call out sick for similar symptoms the school nurse will contact the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District.

Daily Health Self-Assessment: The current recommendation is for all students and staff to perform a daily self-check prior to leaving home. All Bloomfield staff and students (with help of their parent/guardian) will be asked to complete the COVID-19 Daily Self-Assessment Screening Questions prior to leaving for school each day. If any staff or student answers YES to any question, they must remain at home and notify their school. If the state or local health departments determine that daily screenings by school are required, the district is prepared to provide these screenings.

Illness at School: Any student or staff member who becomes ill at school with questionable COVID-19 symptoms will be evaluated by the school nurse. If COVID-19 symptoms are exhibited, the student or staff must be excluded from school immediately. Students or staff will be asked to wait in the isolation room until picked up by parent/guardian, responsible person, or released to another health care facility. Students will not be left unattended in the isolation room.

Isolation Room: Each school will identify an isolation room separate from the health office where students and staff will wait until picked up by parent/guardian or transferred to a healthcare facility. All students in the isolation room will be supervised by a staff member. The staff member will be provided with a surgical mask, face shield, disposable isolation gown and gloves. Social distancing of six feet or greater will be maintained in the isolation room. A log will be maintained by the school nurse of all persons that enter the isolation room. A separate bathroom will be designated for use by anyone utilizing the isolation room.

Health Office Guidance: In order to prevent potential exposure to infectious diseases for vulnerable students receiving other medical treatments, all student visits to the Health Office will be triaged.

All students and staff will have their temperature and COVID-19 risk factors screened upon arrival to the Health Office.

Aerosol producing treatments (nebulizers) will be limited to emergency use only. When administered, the nurse has to be in full PPE and the room has to remain empty for 2 hours after procedure since droplets remain in the air.

Vaccinations, Screening and Testing

Vaccination Clinics

Bloomfield Public Schools will work in collaboration with the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District and Hartford HealthCare to offer periodic staff/student school and community-based vaccination clinics and screening and testing sites through the course of the school year.

Screening and Testing

The CDC/DPH/SDE have strongly encouraged school districts to facilitate weekly voluntary COVID-19 screening testing for students and staff in K-6 schools and select schools of high transmission for grades 7-12. Bloomfield has collaborated with SEMA 4 to offer this service. Screening will be conducted on a voluntary basis. Staff and students wishing to participate will be requested to have submitted a signed consent.

Containment Plan

Containment of Illness

Illness at School

If a student or staff member becomes ill at school, they will be evaluated by the School Nurse. If an ill person displays 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19 they must be excluded from school or work immediately. An ill student or staff member with a fever of 100 degrees or higher will also be excluded from school immediately. A designated isolation room and separate bathroom will be utilized by anyone with COVID-19 symptoms until arrangements can be made for the parent/guardian to pick up or discharge to a healthcare facility.

Ill Student: Parent/guardian will be requested to pick up their student within one hour. All students will be monitored while in the isolation room at all times. Parents/guardians should seek medical advice for the ill student within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed. The parent/guardian must notify the school nurse when test results are known.

Ill staff: An ill staff member will leave work immediately, unless needing more urgent care and then they will be placed in the isolation room while waiting for transfer to a health care facility. Within 48 hours, the staff member should seek medical advice and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed and notify their building administrator and school nurse when the test results are known.

Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Student or Staff

If a student or staff member, who has been present in school, has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 the individual will be requested to quarantine regardless of vaccination status. The West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District (WHBHD) will be notified immediately by the school nurse. In addition, those in contact with the student or staff member (regardless of vaccination status) will be notified of the exposure by school administration and instructed on current CDC recommendations related to exposure.

Confidentiality of the ill individual will be maintained in accordance to FERPA, privacy expectations and the ADA. All communication will follow the Districts COVID-19 Response and Communication Protocols.

COVID-19 Response Teams and Responsibilities

School Response Team to COVID-19 Illness

The school nurse will;

- Evaluate students or staff if they become ill at school and will immediately dismiss if COVID-19 symptoms are present
- Monitor illness trends of student and staff absences
- Notify local health department of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 and will collaborate with local health department regarding contact tracing and any other mitigation or containment procedure as directed
- Notify building and district stakeholders as per Communication Tree procedure regarding suspected or confirmed COVID-19 illness

The attendance monitor will;

- Notify the school nurse daily of student or staff absences that include suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis or any symptom of COVID-19
- Assure confidentiality of all medical information of student or staff member

The school principal will;

- Notify close contacts of students or staff with COVID-19 exposure upon directions of local health department while maintaining confidentiality
- Manage school dismissal if necessary and notification of school community
- Assure confidentiality of all medical information of student or staff member

The school custodian will:

- Under direction of the Facilities Director and/or School Principal will clean and disinfect the area utilized by the ill student or staff member per district and DPH protocol

The social worker and/or guidance counselor will;

- Will provide support to the student and family regarding concerns arising from COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure

District Response Team to COVID-19 Illness

The COVID-19 Liaison will:

- Ensure that the school and district response team have followed protocols, the communication tree has been followed and responsibilities completed
- Will be available to students, staff and family or community members to answer questions and provide guidance
- Report to the CSDE any notifications of positive COVID-19 cases

The Superintendent will;

- Notify the school community and district stakeholders of a positive COVID-19 illness in the school system
- With collaboration of the Local Health District, determine school dismissal and closure

The Director of Facilities will;

- Communicate with the building custodians regarding cleaning and disinfecting protocols consistent with CDC, State and District protocols

Human Resources will:

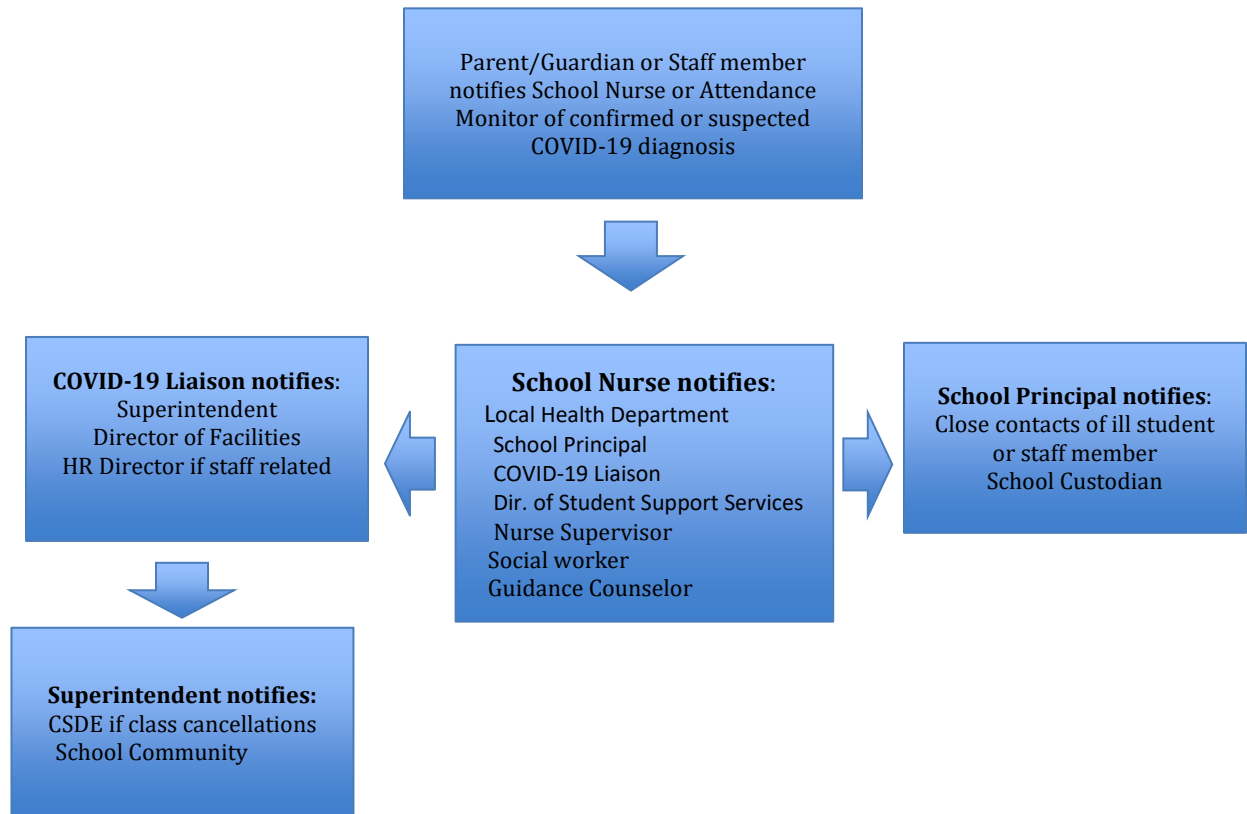
- Provide guidance and information to an employee regarding medical leave due to illness or exposure
- Communicate substitute staff needs with Kelly Services

The Nurse Supervisor will:

- Assist the school nurse and the health district with contact tracing
- Assist the school principal with notifications to students and families
- Monitor the health trends in all district schools and report to the district COVID-19 Liaison and the Health Department

Bloomfield Public Schools realizes that an employee may be responsible for more than one position.

COVID-19 Illness in School Communication Tree



Return to School or Work after COVID-19 Diagnosis, COVID-19 Symptoms or COVID-19 Exposure

Bloomfield Public Schools requires all students or staff returning from any illness or COVID-19 exposure to adhere to following guidelines. All students and staff will need clearance from the school nurse after safely quarantining to return to school.

Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis

If diagnosed with COVID-19, with or without symptoms, the following [CDC Protocol](#) will be followed for returning to school or work.

- COVID-19 with symptoms** - person may return when the following are met:
 - 10 days have passed since the first symptoms
 - 24 hours of no fever without using fever reducing medications
 - Symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath have improved
- COVID-19 with NO symptoms** - person may return when the following is met:
 - 10 days from the test date

COVID-19 Symptoms with NO testing

1. Two or more COVID-19 symptoms - person may return when the following are met:

- 10 days from when symptoms appeared
- 24 hours of no fever without using fever reducing medications
- Physician's note documenting an alternative diagnosis and no known COVID-19 exposure

COVID-19 Exposure (within 6 feet > 15 minutes) – Vaccinated

- If individual becomes symptomatic, must follow above guideline for COVID-19 symptoms
- If vaccinated and asymptomatic, students and staff do not need to be quarantined from work, school, or away from other people if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and do not have symptoms themselves. They are still encouraged to obtain a PCR test 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask when around other people for 14 days.

COVID-19 Exposure (within 6 feet > 15 minutes) – Unvaccinated

1. Person may return when the following are met:

- After quarantine at home for 10 days from last exposure to positive COVID-19 case
- If individual becomes symptomatic, must follow above guideline for COVID-19 symptoms

COVID-19 Exposure Exception for students only

Asymptomatic students in classrooms who are 3 feet apart and wearing a mask will not be required to quarantine per CDC/DPH guidance.

Continuity of Services

The Bloomfield Public Schools will implement a standards-based curriculum, research-based instructional practices, and a rigorous and relevant assessment program across all content areas that effectively contribute to the Bloomfield Portrait of a Graduate.

Design Principles for Learning

The following design principles serve as guidance to structure support and shape a meaningful and worthwhile learning environment for all students.

Focus on Families

- All learning plans must have parents as true partners in facilitating learning
- Implement all plans that work for students and families, minimizes frustrations and empowers families to engage in learning process
- Be thoughtful about expectations placed on families.
- Select a few (1-5) resources for families so as to not be overwhelming

Focus on Quality

- Plans must build from instructional plan that was in place for the academic year
- Standards-based curriculum

Focus on Mastery

- Mastery-based learning focuses on the individual student, providing all students with ability to progress at their own pace
- Students who master material more quickly can advance right away
- Teachers should communicate learning objectives/standards to administrators, students and parents for each lesson to align with Portrait of a Graduate

Focus on Equity

- Create a team of community partners and school personnel to ensure that most vulnerable students and families are supported
- Ensure high quality content and instruction are offered daily
- Incorporate Performance Tasks and Project-based learning as well as student-driven inquiry projects
- Provide culturally relevant resources for each student and family

Focus on Consistency

- Identify essential outcomes and enduring understandings in all content areas at a district level
- Utilize cross-curricular planning to assist in students' ability to manage work and new responsibilities
- Utilize common platforms to alleviate confusion
- Include non-technology-based options

- Provide clear and consistent expectations in timelines and communication
- Consider ways to focus on relationships and connections, not just content

Focus on Simplicity

- Communicate a clear and concise message that outlines methods on how to utilize available online resources and applications.

Roles of Partners

The following list contains best practices for parents, students and educators to ensure optimal learning and academic outcomes.

Role of the Parent

- Collaborates as partners with teachers and administrators in their child(ren's) education
- Provides feedback to administrator and teachers as to their child(ren's) learning experience, progress and growth
- Establishes routines at home that support good study habits and positive academic outcomes
- Ensures that their child(ren) follow the school's established instructional schedule
- Identifies workspaces at home for students to engage in learning
- Engages students in self-reflection of their learning so students take ownership of their learning

Role of the Student

- Collaborates with teacher and peers
- Engages in classroom learning as an active participant
- Attends school regularly and is focused on their learning
- Continuously reflects on their own progress of their daily learning plans/schedules and articulate to the teacher when they need help
- Completes the assigned independent assignments, assessments, and tasks on time and submits each to their teacher for feedback

Role of the Administrator

- Monitors student engagement, progress and attendance
- Creates opportunities for feedback from all stakeholders
- Encourages and empowers learners to be active in the learning process
- Provides feedback to teachers and students on teaching and learning

Role of the Teacher

- Facilitates the teaching and learning process by providing exemplary opportunities for learning
- Communicates student learning objectives to the parents and students
- Provides opportunities for learners to collaborate
- Reduces barriers to content and learning by integrating all available resources
- Provides feedback, discussion and academic support
- Collaborates with Special Education teachers and support staff

- Special education teachers and support staff schedule individual academic support sessions to fulfil IEP requirements

Learner Framework

This framework serves as a guide for teachers to recognize and nurture the ongoing development of skills upon the return to school.

1. All students have realized and developed skills to own their learning in remote setting.
2. To develop the outcomes of the Learner Framework, it will be important to recognize and nurture the ongoing development of these skills upon returning to school and their classrooms.
3. To empower teachers and students, the reimaging of classrooms can be supported by a learner framework:

Learner Connected: *Our Learners will be given opportunities to:*

- Network (families, educators, communities) to cultivate and increase positive relationships
- Collaborate with teachers, peers and experts in the field
- Engage in accelerated learning experiences
- Learn academic skills and knowledge
- Receive social and emotional health coping skills
- Receive community civic engagement skills
- Receive skill development
- Receive global collaboration and communication skills

Learner Focused

- All learners are empowered to develop and reflect on their understanding of their needs, strengths, and interests
- They should be able to deepen their understanding of personal and academic needs, strengths, passions and interests, their physical and mental health, social and emotional needs and 21st Century and beyond executive functioning skills

Learner Led

- Learners are empowered to take ownership of their learning and be able to:
 - Articulate goals, strengths, needs, and interests
 - Partner with parents and teachers in goal setting and develop a pathway for learning
 - Assess, monitor and reflect on progress
 - Advocate for their learning and needed support from teachers, technology and other resources

Learner Demonstrated

- Learners can progress at their own pace based on demonstrated mastery. Learners must:
 - Engage in challenging learning experiences based on prior knowledge and learning needs
 - Engage in productive struggle with material
 - Progress at a pace that fits learning needs
 - Advance or go deeper after demonstrating mastery
 - Demonstrate evidence of learning in multiple ways
 - Recognize the importance of mastering a skill over traditional measures for demonstrating mastery

Assessment Practices

The CSDE recommends the following approach that is designed to usher students back into learning, fill any gaps, advance equity, minimize testing time, increase instructional time, and empower teachers.

Summer 2021 - Prior to the start of the school year

- Teachers, interventionists, instructional specialists and related service providers must participate in vertical teams with colleagues from the preceding grade to learn about what was taught pre-COVID and during distance learning
- Teachers, interventionists, instructional specialists and related service providers must receive summaries of longitudinal student data including non-assessment data and assessment data
- Upon review of the data, the first unit of instruction must be designed with access for all students in mind
- Teachers will need professional development around best assessment practices

Start of the School Year

- Build Community with the new class
- Deliver the first unit of instruction: Allow students to have a high probability of success in learning the material

Rest of the School Year 2021-2022

- Shift fully to on-grade instruction with scaffolds and supports
- Focused, regular Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB), or Common formative Assessments (CFA) should be used as short, diagnostic precursors to on-grade instructional units
- Administer iReady assessments in English Language Arts and Math
- Districts must determine the prerequisite skills from prior grades

- Teachers must deliver differentiated instruction that covers grade-level content and is personalized to the needs and interests of the students
- Formative assessments must be implemented, which will enable teachers to gauge the impact of their teaching
- Tier 2 supports must be offered based on information derived from formative assessments
- The cycle outlined above continues for each instructional unit for the remainder of the year

End of the School Year

- Student will be administered an on-grade summative assessment to evaluate the overall achievement on state standards

Physical Education, Athletics, Arts, Extracurricular Activities

Bloomfield is committed to supporting the whole child. Students will engage in traditional offerings as well as Physical Education, Athletics, Arts and Extracurricular activities beginning the 2021-2022 school year.

Physical Education

- Schools must provide physical education through in-person instruction and activities while maintaining social distancing where possible
- Plan for regular cleaning of instructional spaces and equipment between cohorts
- Allow students to utilize personal water bottles and/or provide water bottles as needed

Arts and Music Education

- Provide sufficient instructional minutes to support standards-based instruction
- Strive to maintain current program of studies within the safety precautions
- Maintain spacing of at least 12 feet when students are singing or performing wind instruments when possible by scheduling classes in large areas such as cafeterias, auditoriums, outdoors or other large spaces.
- Maintain small groupings of instruments for lesson instruction
- Provide individual art supply kits for each student or plan to thoroughly sanitize each between use

Field Trips

- Field trips will be approved on a case by case basis to ensure that they meet all safety requirements

Special Education

Individuals with Disabilities Act/Americans with Disabilities Act

There has been no waiver of the requirements under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) or ADA for provision of FAPE (Free and Appropriate Education) for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bloomfield Public Schools is prepared for opening in the fall to provide FAPE in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to the greatest extent possible for each child. All Special Education students will receive services according to their IEP. In accordance with IDEA, it is critical to reinforce the understanding that students receiving Special Education services, or 504 accommodations, are general education students first.

Balancing the educational needs with the health and well-being of students and staff is our top priority.

Every child and adolescent with a disability is entitled to FAPE, and is entitled to special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP). It will require continual reassessment and problem solving to balance safety and service needs. In order to provide the required level of safety we have reevaluated our systems, processes and service delivery models. Adherence to social distancing guidelines will be followed as possible except for instances when the services outlined in a specific IEP call for creative solutions. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For example, additional provision of PPE supplies to staff (gloves, gowns, face shields and dividers) who are required to deliver hand over hand instruction or hygiene service needs for students.

Timelines and Evaluations

All IDEA/ADA compliance timelines will be followed on schedule and in accordance with IDEA/ADA regulations.

Service Provision

Students will receive services as outlined in their IEP with some adjustments to align to new school structures.

- Each student will be included into regular education cohorts and all services provided in the LRE.
- Special education teachers and related service providers will provide services to students within the regular education classroom within their established cohort to the maximum extent possible. Service for students requiring substantially separate programming will continue to be offered in accordance with the IEP.
- When there is a service provision requirement to use communal space for related services, the space will be cleaned according to DPH/CDC guidelines.

The federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services. Bloomfield will follow all state guidelines for the delivery of special education and related services to the greatest extent possible while protecting the health and safety of students as well as the individuals providing the services.

- If a student is unable to access their education in person due to medical or other circumstances, Bloomfield will provide alternative means of delivering these services. An Individualized Distance Learning Plan will be developed in collaboration with the parents based on the specific needs of individual students.
- If a student in special education is unable to wear a mask, a mask exemption plan will be written and the team will determine what other PPE can be supplied to mitigate COVID-19 spread such as Plexiglas shields and face shields.
- When required, staff will be supplied with full protective equipment including masks, shields, gloves, and barriers. Such protective equipment will be available when working with students who are unable to wear masks and/or when hand-over-hand prompting is required. This includes DTI sessions, testing sessions, and speech-language sessions when the student's mouth needs to be seen.

COVID-19 Guidance Regarding De-Escalation Procedures

Bloomfield Public Schools will continue to prioritize prevention and de-escalation for students with social-emotional challenges. Staff will continue to follow all laws and guidelines related to de-escalation and physical restraint. Additional procedures will be created by district medical staff to maintain the safety of students and staff while attempting to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during situations when de-escalation and/or physical management is required. Physical restraint continues to be an intervention of last resort for students or staff who are at threat of imminent physical danger.

504 Accommodations

The 504 Plan is developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under ADA law receives appropriate accommodations that will ensure their academic success and equitable access to the learning environment. All accommodations within the 504 Plan will be followed. Case managers will review 504 Plans to make sure that students receiving accommodations have equitable access to their education. When required, a 504 meeting will be held to provide appropriate added accommodations.

English Learners (ELs)

Meeting the Needs of English Learners

Bloomfield Public Schools is prepared for opening in the fall of 2021 to provide FAPE and support to their English Language Learning students.

Bloomfield Public Schools continues to support English Learners (ELs) in the general education curriculum. With plans for in-school instruction, we are committed to providing English as a Second Language (ESL) services to all identified students, including those dually identified with special education needs.

Timelines and Evaluations

The Bloomfield School District has an established process for carrying out the required procedure for identifying ELs.

1. Ensuring adherence to statewide survey and screenings
2. Provide parental notification
3. Adhere to annual English language proficiency assessment requirements
4. Offering translation and/or interpretation to parents /guardians with limited English proficiency

Service Provision

- ELs will be included in regular education cohorts and have access to the general education curriculum as well as supplemental language instruction
- ELs who are identified as students with disabilities will be provided for their EL needs along with their needs under IDEA and 504.
- Professional Development will be available for general education teachers of ELs
- Ongoing communication with families of ELs in their native language will be provided
- The Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs of English learners may be unique and will be addressed.

Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programming

CTE courses are an important component of the high school program. High school shop, foods, and science lab students will be responsible for cleaning the materials they routinely use in class, just as they always have been. Thoroughly cleaning with soap and water is an effective method for transmission of COVID-19, and will be expected. Where soap and water cannot be used, disinfectant wipes will be used. Students will be provided with gloves if they have concerns about dermal contact with disinfectants. Wherever possible, students will be issued their own personal kit of materials.

- The courses offered will be adjusted to offer fewer shared materials where possible
- Culinary classes will follow all safety procedures for food preparation and food will be prepared to-go so it is not eaten in the kitchen.

Adult Education

Adult Education Courses

The Bloomfield Public Schools will continue to offer Adult Education courses for GED, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and Citizenship.

Some of our Adult and Continuing Education fall courses will continue to be online, with plans to transition to in-school learning as interest in this model of instruction is requested by students.

Family and Student Engagement

Family Support and Communication

Our district has placed a high priority on providing timely communications to our stakeholders during this unprecedented time. The district communicates with families through multiple platforms – including:

- Traditional Communications (email, calls, text, U.S. mail)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Digital Media (Website, Zoom and Google Meet)

Bloomfield Public Schools is committed to the continual support of our families.

- Regular Updates from the Superintendent will be posted to the website and emailed to the Bloomfield Schools community.
- The schools will engage and communicate with families via newsletter, Virtual Backpacks, School Messenger, newsletters and informational sessions about health protocols, academic requirements, and resources available for support.
- Families are engaged through surveys and emails in our planning process.
- Bloomfield Public Schools will continue to comply with state and federal family engagement requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic
- An ad hoc parent committee entitled “A Seat at the Table” has been established, and will continue to function, to obtain parent feedback, concerns and suggestions.
- The Bloomfield district’s plans for reopening for the 2021-2022 school year are available on the district website -- <http://www.bloomfieldschools.org/>
- Family and students can visit websites to access current information regarding the fall 2021 Bloomfield Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health

Supporting Children and Families

Bloomfield Public Schools recognizes the importance of the mental health benefits of a strong SEL (social-emotional learning) program. Bloomfield will capitalize on the support provided by our Student and Family Assistance Centers (SFAC). Bloomfield SFAC centers will continue to partner with local colleges and universities in order to bolster counseling support by hosting Master Level social work interns to support students and families.

Bloomfield will continue to partner with Community Health Resources (CHR) to support our School Based Health Clinics at Metacomet, Arace, Bloomfield High School, and Global Experience Magnet School with one clinician per building. These services will continue to provide students and families with available access to clinical based services for those in need.

The primary goals of our SEL program are to focus on protocols that identify and support struggling, disengaged or traumatized students and their families. We have established a system of support for students and their families through our Case Management approach.

We will leverage our Student and Family Assistance Centers (SFACs), as well as district-level staff, and will continue to engage this model with a Social Worker and one intern per school. Referrals will focus on student engagement with learning. A secondary benefit is that all participants have been trained to spot signs of child abuse and neglect through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Mandated Reporting Training and our collaboration with our DCF liaison.

A comprehensive professional development program was established in 2017 around the Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS) model. Bloomfield Public Schools has invested in providing Proficiency Training and Advanced Training on the CPS model to staff in all buildings in the district. All Bloomfield certified staff received copies of the Ross Greene texts and training is going through the last three school years. The CPS model also compliments our work around trauma-based practices and cultural equity by focusing on building student relationships and skills for strong interpersonal relationships as well as problem solving by integrating the models practices students develop voice and are empowered with choice in their academic programs. The professional learning plan is designed so that every student's academic and social emotional needs will be addressed through the integration of SEL and strengthening connections with students. Resources around self-care, mindfulness, and resiliency strategies will be compiled to further support faculty and staff.

Through our partnership with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Alliance, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and Alliance for Bloomfield's Children, we will continue to use their expertise to support our District with timely and relevant training around the critical issues of implicit bias and anti-racism.

After-School Programming

Extra-Curricular Activities and After-School Enrichment and Intervention

Bloomfield receives CSDE funds for after school programming. The district has a robust offering of afterschool activities across all schools including: small group academic enrichment and intervention, homework help, SAT prep, clubs, student leadership groups, and open use of the library and school facilities. All programs will resume in the 2021-2022 school year adhering to establish regular school day health and safety protocols.

Extension Program (Before/After School Care)

The Extension Program, which affords families before-and-after-school care, will be offered to students in grades PreK to grade 6. Extension will operate according to in-school, in-person learning protocols established for the regular school day.

Plan Review Committees

Our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan was developed by a number of subcommittees who provided input, which was reviewed by a Steering Committee of representative stakeholders.

Steering Committee Members

Dr. James Thompson, Jr. Superintendent Ms. Stacey McCann, Chief Academic Officer
Ms. Wendy Shepard Banish, Director of Student Support Services
Mr. John Robinson, Director of Technology & Human Resources Coordinator
Mr. William D. Guzman, Chief Operations Officer
Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan, Curriculum Specialist
Mr. Stan Simpson, Director of Strategic Communications
Mr. Kenneth Wallach, Director of Facilities
Ms. Elisa Pierce, District Grant Writer
Mr. Jason Titelbaum, District Data Systems Coordinator
Ms. Krista Cherry, Executive Assistant
Ms. Terri Davenport, Benefits Coordinator
Ms. Susan Pinkham, Director, Food Services
Ms. Kristine Johnson, Director, Extension Program
Ms. Melanie Griffin, RN, District Nurse Supervisor
Ms. Melissa Sutton, Special Education Coach
Dr. Ann Milanese, District Medical Advisor
Ms. Aimee Krauss, RS, MPH Director of Health - West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District
Dr. Patrick Proctor, Consultant Mr. Daniel Moleti, BHS Principal
Mr. Jesse White, Principal on Assignment
Mr. Jeffrey Bernabe, Principal, GEMS
Dr. Trevor Ellis, Principal, CAMS
Ms. Sarah Williams, Principal, CAIS
Dr. Beryl Irene Bailey, District Director of Literacy 7-12
Mr. Paul Guzzo, Principal, Metacomet
Ms. Ms. Jennifer Dwyer, Principal, Laurel
Ms. Eileen Richters, Dean of Students, CAIS
Ms. Samantha Straker, Principal, Wintonbury
Ms. Anne Burrows, BHS Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jaunice Edwards-Hassan, Director, Harris AgriScience Center
Ms. Susan Sumberg, BEA President, Teacher, Laurel

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