



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and Community Outreach
6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204
443.809.5908 (English) 443.809.7801 (Español) www.bcps.org

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CONTACT: Dept. of Communications/Community Outreach,
443.809.5908

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This press release has been updated to expand the groups of students who may begin four days of in-person hybrid learning.

BCPS announces expansion of in-person learning for identified students

Includes students at elementary and public separate day schools and select students in middle and high schools

Towson, MD – As early as May 10, Baltimore County Public Schools will offer identified students the opportunity for four in-person learning days per week, an increase from two in-person learning days. Families may continue to choose five days of virtual learning.

For all students on Wednesdays, teachers will continue to provide virtual learning in addition to the opportunity to meet with small groups of students, provide tutoring, conduct individual student check-ins, plan for instruction, and engage in professional learning.

Through consultation with health experts and while continuing to implement mitigation strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the extent possible, students in the following groups may begin four days of in-person learning on the dates indicated. Schools will provide specific information to families about making the choice, and the deadlines for making the choice are Wednesday, Apr. 21, for elementary students and Friday, Apr. 23, for secondary students.

Four days of in-person learning may begin on May 10 for these students:

- All students in elementary schools, Preschool – Grade 5.
- All students in public separate day schools (Battle Monument, Maiden Choice, Ridge Ruxton, and White Oak schools).

- Select students in Grades 6 – 12.

Four days of in-person learning may begin on May 17 for these students:

- Targeted groups of students in Grades 6 – 12.

As principals continue to engage in outreach to families and in accordance with CDC-recommended mitigation guidelines for middle and high school students, principals will work with their teams to review maximum student capacity and, if space exists, expand efforts to include additional learners. The BCPS Reopening Plan has consistently focused on prioritizing student return based on students with the highest need and who would benefit most from in-person instruction.

School leadership teams know best the needs of students based on well-established relationships and ongoing data monitoring. Our school leadership teams regularly monitor data related to engagement and achievement, and that data monitoring is aligned to the targets, initiatives, and professional learning in their School Progress Plans. It is the expectation that school leadership teams design outreach efforts based on that knowledge and the implementation of mitigation strategies. All outreach efforts to students and families will be initiated by the school and the school's leadership teams.

BCPS has identified May 10 and May 17 as start dates for system planning purposes; however, we have learned that the nature of this pandemic is evolving, which could impact the scheduled timeline as more updated information is provided.

During weeks with previously scheduled closures for students, there will be three in-person days for students. May 13 is a systemwide professional development day and May 31 is Memorial Day.

The expansion is aligned with recent CDC guidelines adopted by the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education. Schools will continue to maintain the CDC's recommended mitigation strategies, including the consistent and correct use of face coverings; social distancing to the extent possible; frequent hand washing and covering of coughs and sneezes; cleaning and disinfecting; and contact tracing.

BCPS phased in two days of hybrid in-person learning for all students from the week of Mar. 1 to the week of Apr. 6.

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).