

Update on BUSD's School Reopening Plan

April 21, 2021

DONDE SEA QUE APRENDAS
APRENDEMOS JUNTOS
Berkeley Unified School District



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This Evening's Meeting

1. School Reopening Updates, Middle School and BHS
2. In-Person Graduation Events
3. State Academic Testing
4. High School Athletics
5. Fall of 2021



School Reopening Updates, Middle Schools

Transportation

- We are currently scheduling transportation for all middle schools' requests on behalf of students

Morning Program

- All Middle Schools are now fully staffed to support morning programs
- By next week, all three schools will have morning cohorts with between 40-50 students each

School Reopening Updates, Berkeley High School

During the Distance Learning Day

- 21 students from RISE have been invited to get support while they complete Distance Learning.

After-School Clubs

- Carpentry (for students who have class in Term 7)
 - Robotics (for students who have class in Term 7; including 1 day/week using equipment at Berkeley Adult School)
 - Jazz Band (for students who have class in Term 7)
 - Band & Orchestra (for students who have class in Term 7)
 - AP French - Exam prep
 - AP Chem - Exam prep
 - Men's Group and/or CAS Seniors
 - AP Photo (for students who have class in Term 7, and to prepare portfolio for submission)
 - Jacket Newspaper staff - current editorial board training incoming editorial board on how to use the physical equipment (since they have not had the opportunity this year)
 - Biotech labs
 - AP Spanish Lit - Exam prep
 - French 1 support
 - Expository writing support for ELs

In-Person and Virtual Graduation Events

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In-Person and Virtual Graduations

BUSD plans to permit in-person graduation events, and guidance to schools will be made available shortly.

All CDPH guidelines for graduation must be followed, including:

- No out-of-state travel
- Outdoor events only
- 33% venue capacity (in the Orange Tier)
- Social distancing
- Pre-registered attendance
- Assigned seating
- No eating or food service
- Strict limits on the number of guests per student

Schools will also be asked to create a virtual graduation experience for families who are unable to attend an in-person graduation event.

High School In-Person Graduations

Here is a preliminary draft of the schedule for the BHS, BTA, and BIS graduation ceremonies. Final details will be shared by the high school with families.

Each student may invite only four guests.

A virtual ceremony is being organized for students who are not able to attend.

Friday, June 4	Chicanx/Latinx
	Asian/Pacific Islander
	BIHS
Saturday, June 5	ISP/BTA
	CAS
	AHA
Sunday, June 6	AMPS
	AC, Group 1
	AC, Group 2
	ISP/BTA

**Details about the AfAm Graduation Ceremony are still being developed*

State Academic Testing

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

California Science Test (CAST)

English Learner Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

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ELPAC

Average Site Completion of 2020-21 Summative ELPAC Testing

Berkeley Arts Magnet at Whittier	13.3%
Cragmont Elementary	15.0%
Emerson Elementary	29.2%
John Muir Elementary	64.6%
Malcolm X Elementary	0.0%
Oxford Elementary at West Campus	14.4%
Rosa Parks Environmental Science	6.3%
Ruth Acty Elementary	81.8%
Sylvia Mendez Elementary	13.2%
Thousand Oaks Elementary	47.9%
Washington Elementary	19.2%
Longfellow Arts and Technology Middle	0.0%
Martin Luther King Middle	1.6%
Willard Middle	0.0%
Berkeley High	2.8%
Berkeley Technology Academy	0.0%
Districtwide	14.2%

ELPAC

English Language Proficiency
Assessments for California

ELPAC Assessments are taking place for the district's English Language Learners.

We anticipate that all ELPAC assessments will be completed by the end of the school year.

The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) is the required state test for English language proficiency (ELP) that must be given to students whose primary language is a language other than English. State and federal law require that local educational agencies administer a state test of ELP to eligible students in kindergarten through grade twelve.

State Academic Testing

Summary

A [recent release](#) from the CDE indicated that the US Department of Education (DoE) had granted waivers to allow the state to decouple assessments from federal accountability and waived penalties for participation rates of less than 95%. They also indicated that the State Board of Education (BoE) had authorized for districts to extend the testing window.

While they “expect LEAs to administer statewide summative assessment, where it is the most viable option, where it is NOT the most viable option, LEAs may use an assessment of their choosing if it meets the [specified] criteria”.

Non-Viability of SBAC and CAST for Berkeley Schools

Berkeley has determined that it is not viable to administer the SBAC/CAST testing this year due to a number of hurdles:

- A significant portion of our students remain in distance learning only
- The students in grades 6-8 and 11 who receive in-person instruction only spend a small portion of the instructional day on campus
- Each school has a very limited number of devices on campus for testing
- The loss of limited instructional time resulting from the SBAC/CAST administration would detrimentally impact students' learning program and social-emotional wellness.

Viability of STAR as an Alternative Assessment

The Renaissance STAR Reading and Math tests have been determined to be [an accurate predictor of Smarter Balanced results](#). STAR has identified cut score equivalents for these results in grades 3 through 8 for both reading and math. The test can be administered in significantly less time (15 to 20 minutes) and does not create the onerous burden of attempting to install the Secure Browser on individual student devices which is needed for the SBAC/CAST tests. It meets all the standards outlined by the CDE for an alternative assessment:

- Aligned with CCSS for ELA and mathematics;
- Available to assess students in grades 3-8 and grade 11;
- Uniformly administered across a grade span, school, or district; and
- Provide results that can be reported to parents/guardians, educators about individual students, and to the public by school and by district and are disaggregated by student group.

Actions for BUSD

Due to the factors detailed above, and in alignment with the state directives, BUSD will:

- Administer the the STAR Reading and Math tests in place of state assessments in Grades 3-8
- Provide a testing window for 11th grade students only to take the SBA. This window may be in the summer, but should be completed prior to the start of Summer School on June 14 due to restrictions on enrollment dates. Reasons to give this test include:
 - Early Admissions Process to CSU
 - Seal of Biliteracy
 - Reclassification

Update on High School Athletics

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Update on High School Athletics

Three individuals who participated in the Berkeley High School boys basketball program last week have tested positive for COVID-19. The District became aware of the first positive individual on Friday, April 16 and on Monday, April 19, we learned of a third.

We are following the same COVID-19 Case protocols in all instances.

We are pausing all athletics tryouts at BHS for at least 48 hours from Monday evening, in order to conduct a thorough review of athletic practices for adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols, under the direction of the City of Berkeley Health Department. This pause includes all indoor and outdoor sports tryouts. These include badminton, soccer, lacrosse, water polo, basketball, wrestling, and volleyball.

**This information is dated April 19, 2021*

Our BHS students have been engaged in athletics since conditioning began this past summer, and have competed in outdoor swimming, golf, tennis, cross country, track, lacrosse, baseball, softball, and football. This is the first report of multiple cases in association with a BHS athletic team.

Review of Current Orange Tier Sports

- Wearing face coverings during all sports involving close contact, except for aquatic sports.
- Limiting tryouts to stable groups of 20 or fewer players/students.
- Requiring a negative COVID-19 test (or proof of infection within the previous 90 days) for all athletes who wish to participate within 48 hours of play.
- Reinforcing previous trainings with all athletics staff on infection control protocols, consistent with the requirements of CDPH Guidance for Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports.

Important Reminders COVID Safety In BUSD Schools

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Key Safety Practices

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Face Coverings

Social Distancing

Stable Groups

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Cleaning

Ventilation

Vaccines for Staff

Surveillance Testing

Contact Tracing/Quarantines

We urge our families to recognize:

- All students will be expected to wear face coverings.
- Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine procedures will be strictly enforced, and this could lead to disruption for individual students, classes, or even entire schools.
- All families are expected to confirm that their children are free of COVID symptoms every day.
- Students should remain at home if they are sick or have COVID symptoms.
- All visitors to school campuses and classrooms are prohibited, except for a few limited volunteer roles.
- Substitute staffing will continue be highly limited.

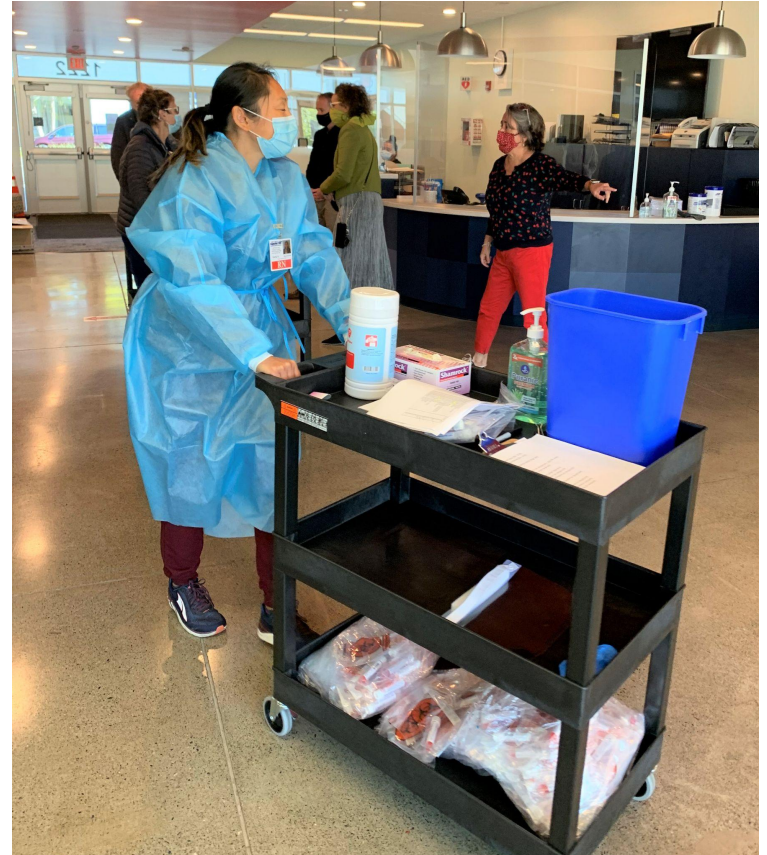
The pandemic is not over, and we'll need each other to stay safe!

Patience, kindness, and cooperation will be important for all of us.

Student COVID-19 Testing

BUSD is offering free Covid- 19 testing at school campuses for students when their parents/guardians indicate they would like to participate.

Nurses wheel testing carts to classroom doors, or to outdoor locations, to test teachers and students. Seeing their teacher tested is reassuring to students who are new to testing.



Student COVID-19 Testing

- Now testing at pre-k and elementary schools, and high school athletic teams
- Next: Middle School, High School, BTA and BIS
- Student testing is optional, but encouraged
- Parents/guardians receive results within 72 hours
- BUSD nurses will immediately reach out to families in the event of a positive test



www.berkeleyschools.net/student-covid-testing (Pre-k and Elementary)

www.berkeleyschools.net/student-testing-mshs/ (Middle & High School and BTA/BIS)

Fall of 2021

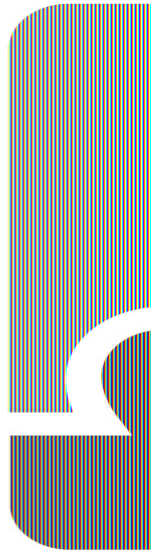
BUSD will return to full-time in-person learning in the Fall

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As many students return to their school campus for in-person learning, others will remain in distance learning for the remainder of the school year. We want to assure all students, families, and staff that wherever you learn (or teach), we are one community with shared values and goals for our students. We learn together.