

Frequently Asked Question from the Learning Continuity Plan

General

Q. On page 8 of this document, it states:

“The Public Hearing was held on Thursday, September 3, at the Board of Education meeting. The public was invited to comment on the Continuity Plan. Prior to the Public Hearing a draft of the Learning Continuity Plan was posted on the District’s website. The Board of Education adopted the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan on Thursday, September 17. Prior to the meeting, the Continuity Plan was posted on the District’s website. In addition, responses to concerns or questions about the Continuity Plan were also posted.”

Did you mean August? Or...?

- A.** The Learning Continuity Plan was posted on Friday, August 28, 2020, on the District's website. Immediately after posting, the opportunity to provide feedback was made available to the public using the email address:

Re-openingSchool@burbankusd.org

On Wednesday, September 2, the recorded presentation on the Learning Continuity Plan was provided to the public from the BUSD website.

The public was again reminded during the presentation and on the powerpoint that comments could be made through Facebook and the email address.

On Thursday, September 3, the Board of Education held a Public Hearing in which the public could have made comments about the Learning Continuity Plan. The Board of Education agenda was made available on Thursday, August 27 on the District’s website.

Q. Protect students at this age from having self-responsibility to protect themselves from the virus.... they are still under-age to be given such self-care for this pandemic. Can't we wait until next year in this time of crisis. Education can wait but not health. I vote for continued distant learning. A mother will protect their child/ children in this kind of world problem.

- A.** BUSD follows the directives and guidelines from the Governor, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The reopening of schools will be guided by the guidelines provided by each of these entities.

Q. Hi, there. My two children (TK and 3rd) attend Roosevelt and have adjusted very well to distance learning. Their teachers, Mr. Pike and Mrs. Cobery, have been amazing. Their organization and thoughtfulness have made distance learning a truly positive experience for both my children.

I have heard that the reopening plan would require teachers to teach both in-person and virtually. I don't know if this means virtual class will be pre-recorded videos or students watching class from home. Either way, I am concerned that the kids who opt to stay home would not get the teacher interaction that they desperately need right now.

This would create a subpar educational experience for the kids who need to stay home. Students need to interact with their teachers. To not facilitate that interaction would be unfair to the children who need to learn from home for health reasons. Can you imagine a TK class with a child not interacting with a teacher for hours every day?

If this is the plan, then parents will have to face a choice of sending their kids to school or subjecting their students to a new model of virtual education that is far less effective than what we've been getting.

It would also be discriminating against children who have health issues that make returning to school not an option right now.

I beg you to reconsider that plan. There must be a way to allow some teachers to continue to teach solely online while others return to the classroom. This would also, I'm sure, help the teachers who are uncomfortable returning in person.

A. Plans for reopening are at the initial stage and a number of factors will influence the options that will be available. The District will definitely take into consideration the option for students to be taught in a distance learning setting as well as an in-school option. Some parents want to know if they will have the same teacher. We can't guarantee that at this time. It depends on how many students choose each model.

Q. When we reopen, chances there will be some kids who will test positive. While in quarantine, they could still participate in distance learning if the teachers videotape their classes. The feed would then be transferred to whatever platform you choose...ie., YOUTube and kiddos can still experience the whole class.

A. Plans for reopening are at the initial stage and a number of factors will influence the options that will be available. The District will definitely take into consideration the option for students to be taught in a distance learning setting as well as an in-school option. Some parents want to know if they will have the same teacher.

We can't guarantee that at this time. It depends on how many students choose each model.

Q. ONLINE TEACHING IS HORRIBLE!! Students MUST BE in the classroom! Students need socialization! Students must elevate, not degrade!! Students must LEARN!!! Please reopen schools!!! It's fatal for the future of each and every student! If you do really care for students, you should reopen schools immediately!

A. BUSD follows the directives and guidelines from the Governor, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The reopening of schools will be guided by the guidelines provided by each of these entities.

Q. Whom do we contact to discuss this asinine policy of having students fill out asynchronous attendance when they will receive a grade based upon completion of assigned work? If the student completes assignments given online, then it is impossible that they did not "attend" to the work. If the student does not submit any work for the day, then their grade will reflect this. On the other side of the spectrum, the form can be filled out without any accountability on school work completion (if you are trying to make this into some type of attestation that the student was engaged but in reality they do not turn in assignments).

It is a very sad state of affairs when basic logic is thrown out in favor of policy making. This form is not worth the energy expended by the device to even link to it and display it on screen.

Please understand that I anticipate the form is an attempt at maintaining "the budget" and state funding, but this form's substance (or lack thereof) and delivery is not the answer. You should be able to track attendance organically if it is that vital of a statistic. Please apply your collective effort into determining a reasonable expectation and whether you already know or can source the statistics you need such as days since last assignment submitted if you care about completion or days since last login if only checking a box.

Beyond the frustration of this form having no point, the mechanics are not user friendly. There is no way to tell if a student has or has not submitted yet for the day. Honestly have you looked at the delivery system from the user's standpoint? It is just a link supposed to be followed everyday but if I fill it out once or five times, nothing on the child's google classroom page confirms submission. Ask yourself how are parents to know if the child (or they on behalf of the child for K) completed attendance or not each day?

For the sake of your own numbers, come up with a better solution.

A. The requirements for synchronous and asynchronous attendance and attendance taking are based on California Senate Bill 98. The way that the District gathers this information may change as more direction is provided by the California Department of Education. The District is seeking out ways to make the process less cumbersome.

Q. Please open the schools and let parents make the decision if they want their child to go to class or not. I am sure some parents for some reasons (which I respect) don't want their children to go to the classroom. And it will make smaller classes which is what you need now. I feel we, parents and pupils, are voiceless. I feel powerless. This online learning is not effective as actual classes plus kids need socializing; I feel sorry for my kindergarten age daughter doing online classes. And how is that private preschools, kindergartens and schools are safe to be open but not public schools?

A. BUSD follows the directives and guidelines from the Governor, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The reopening of schools will be guided by the guidelines provided by each of these entities.

Q. My question about reopening is as follows. I am assuming with both hybrid and distance learning options, as was originally planned. For those students whose parents decide to remain in the distance learning model, do they lose their teachers at that point and have to start over with a designated remote learning teacher? Because I know for my daughter (who is in 4th grade), this would feel like a punishment. She's experiencing enough stress and upheaval in her life currently. Having to change teachers later in the year would be devastating.

A. A Distance Learning option will be available if families want to continue online when there is a return to a hybrid schedule. We cannot guarantee the same teacher at this time. We will do our best but at this time there are too many factors to make that guarantee.

Q. I'm unable to attend the meeting tonight due to multiple Zoom meetings I have this evening. I'm taking the time to send this email to strongly oppose reopening the schools this semester. Health wise and the psychological well being of our kids is why I'm opposing this. Flu season is just around the corner and combining that with Covid-19 will just be a disaster health wise. Exposing teachers and students to even more sickness. That is unacceptable.

Our children are just now adjusting to this new way of doing school at home. We as parents are trying to still adjust this. Our children are sad..mad..having meltdowns and now they want to reopen and mess them up even more. The back and forth and if there is an outbreak and the school has to shut down and then they go back to online

learning. That is not sustainable learning and will further damage our children mentally. This situation has already damaged them enough. Being stuck at home for the last 7 months not seeing family and friends and their teachers and now you want to reopen with the possibility that there could be a shut down if there is an outbreak and then all that is taken away from them again. My 2nd grader has had a broken heart from day 1 of all of this and I'm not going to do that again and add more heartbreak.

Thank you for reading this and taking my words into consideration. This is not fair to the parents..teachers and students. Risking our health both physically and mentally is unacceptable. Again thank you for your time.

A. Any consideration and decision to open school is dependent on multiple factors. The primary consideration is that the District follows the directives and guidelines from the Governor, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The reopening of schools will be guided by the guidelines provided by each of these entities.

Q. Will 100% at home distant learning be available when the hybrid is set in motion? If 100% is so and I am hoping so, will they have their same teacher/teachers they have now?

A. Yes, it will still be an option. Some parents want to know if they will have the same teacher. We can't guarantee that at this time. It depends on how many students choose each model.

Q. My questions are will BUSD still offer distance learning to parents who do not feel comfortable sending their children back to school, whether it is a hybrid school or traditional school? How long will it be offered for? Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions and thank you for all you do.

A. A Distance Learning option will be available if families want to continue online when there is a return to a hybrid schedule. We cannot guarantee the same teacher at this time. We will do our best but at this time there are too many factors to make that guarantee.

Q. Sir, to be honest, reopening of school is still risky especially now it's almost flu season. I would be glad to continue the 100% distance learning. Combination of the flu and covid could obviously and definitely be deadly!! And I think LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EDUCATION. No vaccine, no reopening of school that's it.

A. We understand your concern. Options like distance learning and the hybrid model are under consideration. The exact details of either learning mode will be shared once the design has been determined.

Q. In my opinion they can do both distance learning for those who want 100% distance and in person who wants in person. Flu season it's every year and it's not scary at all. But for me being a mom, worker, teacher, doing groceries, cooking at home is really scary. Either everything should stay closed or everything open. It is nonsense to have kindergartens, child care, summer schools open but schools closed. Overall most of everything is open but kids can't go to school. No one says that I don't care about the well being of my kids but what's going on it's just funny. No offense but I want my kids to go to school and get a normal education. What they are doing now it's just a waste of everyone's time. Zoom or Google meet kicks you out every 5 minutes, kids doing math test 10 times it kicks out. Poor kids don't know to concentrate on math tests or restart and log in to zoom every time when you are out. And tons of those kind examples.

A. The only program that is open at schools is childcare and they are required to follow the strict guidelines from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

B. There are technology issues that do occur with Zoom and Google Meet as students, teachers and businesses across the County, the State and the nation are on these platforms and the bandwidth to handle the internet has a limited capacity. Please feel free to reach out to your child's school to talk with the media technician who can help you with your technology concerns.

Q. Will 100% distance learning in its current form (at their home school with their current teachers) be an option once hybrid begins? Based on survey results it would seem that 25% of families would need this option for medical and other reasons.

A. Options like distance learning and the hybrid model are under consideration. The exact details of either learning mode will be shared once the design has been determined.

Q. As a parent and in my opinion hybrid learning is still risky for children ages 6 and up. I'm happy to continue the 100% distance learning coz I know my child is safe.

A. The options for distance learning and hybrid model are under discussion and will be shared once the details have been determined. In addition, the District will continue to follow the requirements and guidelines from the Governor, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Q. Will 100% distance learning still be an option if we move to a hybrid model?

A. Options like distance learning and the hybrid model are under consideration. The exact details of either learning mode will be shared once the design has been determined.

Q. I was expecting a live meeting; logged on several times watched these videos and searched for links for the live option but never found it.

A. Due to technical difficulties the meeting was recorded and then posted.

Q. Teacher Prep Time for Returning to In-School— Will paying for prep time take them out of instructional minutes? Are we hiring substitutes?

A. COVID federal dollars are being set-aside should the District need to pay staff to set-up schools and classrooms if and when schools re-open. The details on when and how this will be done is under discussion.

Q. I have three children in the district, two at Emerson, going into K and 4th and one at Muir going into 7th. As I write this CoronaVirus cases in LA and statewide are climbing. I feel strongly that staying at home is the safest choice for our students, our faculty and staff and our family with elderly members. I strongly support a distance learning model with meal support and some child care options for families with those needs.

A. Thank you for your feedback. The District will continue to follow the requirements and guidelines from the Governor, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Q. If schools reopen to in-person learning before a family is ready to send their student back (because of high risk people in the household, for example), will there be an opportunity to enroll in Independent learning at that time? Or do we have to make that decision now?

A. Once schools reopen for in-person classes, the district will share out options to allow a choice to remain in distance learning. More information will be updated on our website as it becomes available.

Academics - Curriculum and Instruction

Q. On the ILA slide, can you add that Dual Enrollment with a student's home high school is available so that the student can have access to electives that are not available through APEX?

A. Yes, there is dual enrollment, which means students can take a maximum of two classes at their home school. The ILA by itself is a full time program.

Q. I have 4 children attending school and let me tell you, it is very hard for not only my children but for myself to keep track of all of them and help them all by the time I get home from work at 8 p.m at times or 6pm. I am very concerned for my children's education as well as it's hard for my kindergartener to stay focused on a laptop in the morning instead of class instruction with his classmates by his side to give him some motivation to want to learn as well. The childcare that my kindergartener attends already has told me that the child care is not for my son because he gets distracted and that is my only form of me being able to go to work to provide for my family since I am a single mother of 4 children. My oldest son is in 6th grade and he was already been behind before he started middle school and is struggling even more with the virtual learning, my daughter is in 2nd grade and she as well is a bit behind her reading and is way too tired to do anything by the time we get home, I also have a preschooler and he also is in the process of learning more to get prepared for kindergarten next year and is going to a separate location which is the opposite from where I take my older children and I honestly barley make it at work on time. But now with my kindergartener not cooperating, they want me to remove him from his current location because they said "he is too little and gets distracted by the other older children at the childcare." Which makes it harder for me because now I have to find a third location for him and will be going out of my way and make me not only late for work but my children will be scattered and if this doesn't work they told me they will remove him and that means I will have to leave my job and will not be able to provide a roof over my childrens' heads. So please, consider opening the schools providing distance learning because child care is getting frustrated because they don't have the skills to help the kids. I also think that the schools are big enough to provide more distance for the children than the actual child cares the children attend.

A. The district is following the guidelines set by the Los Angeles County Health Department and will open schools when health conditions allow for reopening.

Please also reach out to your elementary school child's teacher first and then the principal who can work with you on your kindergarten age child to make his learning experience better.

Q. I have read the 18 page presentation on the website that will be pressed this evening. I do not see any mention of what the option will look like for those who choose to remain in 100% distance learning at the secondary level. I was under the impression that 100% distance learning would be an option for the entire 2020-2021 school year, even if BUSD were to open schools for a hybrid model. Can you please let me know where I would find this information or address it tonight in the presentation.

- A.** Options like distance learning and the hybrid model are under consideration. The exact details of either learning mode will be shared once the design has been determined.

Q. My child is an 11th grader at JBHS. I'm very concerned about the amount of homework she has....approx 6 hrs some days. She understands this is her hardest year with AP courses etc but is so stressed that she is not going to learn everything she needs to know and will fall behind. Her grades have been lower this start of semester as well which is yet another stress.

It states that teachers are teaching the same curriculum as in class instruction but without the class time how can our students keep up with where they need to be. My child will not be able to do 6 hours of homework a night and maintain grades she needs for college. Will the teachers adjust grades? Can the curriculum be corrected? Will colleges take into consideration all the issues we are facing?

Have we considered Friday classes? Maybe the extra teaching time would decrease the load of homework the kids need to do? They used to have class time to do some work but now it doesn't seem like that.

I do appreciate the extraordinary planning and time everyone has put into this. I'm just an ordinary parent with a teenager who was once thriving and loving school and now Has a stressed out kid who I can't help. Maybe you all can.

- A.** AP classes can be challenging when it comes to the workload. Counselors are trained to help kids who are struggling to manage the classes. Please reach out to your child's counselor as soon as possible. Friday's are a day when teachers are preparing for the coming school week. Students are completing work on Friday with the ability to get help from their teacher in their virtual classroom or ask questions via email.

Q. I'm not sure what is the 100% Distance Learning model? Does it mean that everything will be online? and students don't need to return to school physically?

- A.** The 100% distance learning model is 100% online learning. Students in 100% distance learning would not physically return to school.

Q. If my student will take Geometry this fall if she were to enroll in ILA does that mean that she would finish Geometry in 2 months and be able to move on to Algebra 2?

- A.** No. If your child finished Geometry in the fall, and transferred to ILA in the spring, he/she would finish Geometry at the ILA and move on to one of her other required subjects.

Q. Will the district be addressing the fact that secondary instructional minutes have been reduced by nearly 60%? What is the reasoning behind no live instruction on Fridays?

A. Preparing for a virtual class is time consuming. The teachers need Friday to prepare lessons for the following week. Students are required to work independently on Fridays with the ability to receive teacher assistance if they log into the teachers virtual classroom during office hours.

Q. Why was the requirement to offer recording of the live instruction for 72 hours after instruction removed from the final MOU? How is a student to make up missed classes when technology fails them?

A. Teachers are required to get a student caught up with work if they are absent and do not make a virtual class. A teacher can choose to send a recording of the class, but they are not required. They can determine if an alternative assignment is appropriate.

Q. When a teacher chooses not to conduct a live session and instead assign asynchronous work; how will those instructional minutes be “made up.” For example: my high schooler’s zero period teacher has informed the class they will only meet 2 days per week (not all 4); this will result in 400 fewer minutes of instruction that the same classes meeting two times per week in the regular mon/wed or tue/Thur setup. Also in the first two weeks of school two different teachers have canceled live instruction for one of the days that was scheduled to have instruction. Are teachers not utilizing substitutes? How is this acceptable?

A. “O” period teachers are expected to teach for the appropriate minutes. However, they have the flexibility to do it in the manner they feel is appropriate. Yes, if a teacher is absent, we have substitute teachers who are trained to function in a virtual classroom.

Q. Hybrid: it is clear that BUSD does not want to rush into in-person classes. What criteria is being used to determine when the schools will reopen? The county released info that schools could start having special populations as early as sept 14th. Will BUSD be making plans for our special populations right away or are you “holding off” for all students? What additional criteria will you be using if not planning to open when the county gives the approval?

A. Options like distance learning and the hybrid model for special populations are under consideration. The exact details of either learning model will be shared once the design has been determined.

Q. I understand the am/pm plan is relatively set but I would like to again urge you to reconsider and fully consider a two days on campus cohort/ Wednesday cleaning (and

special services) and then the other cohort Thursday/Friday. OR consider a one week on/one week off plan. While “lunchtime on campus” is a concern; I feel the AM/PM option does not adequately allow for proper sanitation between cohorts and creates a HUGE problem for families in relation to drop offs/pick ups in the middle of the day and childcare issues. For families that do not work within 5-10 minutes of their child’s school- leaving work to get them to and from school in the middle of the day is simply not possible. This will necessitate more on-campus childcare which totally defeats the purpose of half days of school. It is far easier to plan for and execute full day care and morning/afternoon drop offs/pickups.

A. Options like distance learning and the hybrid model are under consideration.

The exact details of either learning mode will be shared once the design has been determined. The district does have plans to clean classes between cohorts should the district implement the AM/PM model.

Q. Learning loss: Once learning loss is identified; what are the plans for remediation? If a student does not already have an IEP and receive services, how are these newly identified students going to receive their services? How long will this take? Will they be sent through the (months long) IEP process?

A. Students experiencing learning loss will be provided instruction by the classroom teacher. He or she may also receive additional support from an instructional assistant, or an intervention teacher. The IEP process is for students with special needs and qualify for the special education program.

Q. ASES and ATB expansion hours— what is the plan and how will the funds help?

A. ASES is a State funded child care program and is provided with enough funds to operate the program from 3:00pm – 6:00pm daily at Disney. Providencia, Washington Elementary Schools and Luther Middle Schools. The program is now operating from 8:00am to 5:30pm and COVID federal dollars are being used to pay the salaries and benefits of staff who operate that program.

ATB hours were expanded. The hours of operation are now from 7:00am – 6:00pm daily. The additional COVID federal funds will be used to pay the salaries and benefits of staff who operate that program.

Q. Elementary Intervention— What are examples of what the funds will be spent on in this area?

A. Elementary schools will provide intervention in Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics taught by an intervention teacher. Schools will identify students who need this extra instructional time and design their programs to teach students just as they do when regular school is in session.

Q. On the ILA slide, can you add that Dual Enrollment with a student's home high school is available so that the student can have access to electives that are not available through APEX?

A. We will make sure the LCAP clearly states that there is dual enrollment, which means students can take a maximum of two classes at their home school. The ILA is a full time program.

Q. Under Professional Development, you mention "Differentiation for Special Populations." Will Gate students be addressed here?

A. GATE students will continue to be supported by the classroom teachers. The GATE Coordinator meets regularly with the curriculum specialists who support the classroom teachers. The groups listed are the ones that are required to be in the plan.

Q. My comfort level with this pandemic is doing as much as I can outdoors. My research seems to indicate that this pandemic is aerosol driven. How many classrooms have windows that can open? And would you be willing to keep these windows open?

A. Yes, we will open as many windows as we can

Q. Will there be any Gate parent meetings this year?

A. Yes, you will receive information about this soon.

Health and Safety

Q. For each school site, is the HVAC filtration system at MERV13 or higher?

A. BUSD currently uses MERV8 filtration.

If not, by what date will it be?

A. BUSD does not have plans to install MERV 13 filters at this time as they are cost prohibitive, require more frequent changes and may cause some of our older units to freeze up due to the lack of airflow. If windows are left open, the filtration system becomes ineffective.

Q. For each school site, will outdoor classrooms be utilized?

A. Outdoor classrooms will not be utilized as the outdoor space available at each school is relatively limited. Given the weather conditions too, it may not be permissible to hold classes outdoors. Classrooms are well ventilated with the

HVAC system, doors may remain open to classrooms and windows may be opened.

Q. For each school site, can sufficient ventilation be achieved by opening classroom doors and windows?

A. Opening windows and doors does not guarantee ventilation. Ventilation is the movement of air which is what the HVAC systems do. In addition, our newer HVAC systems provide a blend of cooled/heated air with fresh air, known as the economizing function.

Q. Is there a possibility of piggybacking onto LAUSD's covid testing program?

A. The District is looking at all options available.

Mental Health

Q. Parents also need guidance and resources about how to address their children's mental health.

A. There are resources listed on the district website <https://www.burbankusd.org/COVID-19>. The district is still working with FSA to provide mental health services by way of school-based counseling via TeleMental Health. The Family Service Agency has also provided a number for students to call if they need immediate assistance. The number is **818-845-7671**

Q. How can students access mental health services free of charge? When I contacted Family Service Agency for services I was told fees are based on income and was quoted \$250 per session. This seems in contradiction to all the emails and announcements about mental health services for students. What are you doing to ensure students have legitimate access to the mental health services they need?

A. Burbank Family Services has free drop-in services which are accessible by using a specific phone number via TeleMental Health. It's an immediate service. Students referred by the school to the Family Service Agency are free based on a referral to the agency. School-based counseling services are free of charge.