

Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation

# **EDGEWOOD SCHOOLS**

Caring. Daring. Preparing.

2020-2021 Reopening School Plan

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#### **Source of Guidance**

- The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana
- Dr. Jennifer McCormick, State Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Indiana Department of Education
- Dr. Kristina Box, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Health
- Mrs. Penny Caudill, Administrator of the Monroe County Health Department
- Mr. Jeff Baldwin, Executive Director of Monroe County Boys and Girls Club
- Richland-Bean Blossom Community Board of School Trustees
- R-BB Reopening School Parent Survey
- Reopening School Plan Task Force:
  - Jerry Sanders (RBBCSC Superintendent)
  - Penny Caudill (Monroe County Health Department)
  - Jeff Baldwin (Boys and Girls Club)
  - Cheryl Pittsford (Parent and Physician Assistant)
  - Nate Myers (Parent)
  - Kelli Paul (Parent)
  - Angie Jacobs (Parent, Nurse, School Board Member)
  - Lynn Waugh (Parent)
  - Lindy Crain (Parent)
  - Debbie Day: (RBBCSC Corporation Nurse)
  - Dirk Ackerman (EHS Principal)
  - Jon Siegelin (EJHS Principal)
  - Jennifer Lee (EIS Principal)
  - Brenda Whitaker (EPS Principal)
  - Matt Wooden (EECC Director)
  - Jennifer Anderson (Director of Special Ed, SEL, Title I)
  - Matt Irwin (RBBCSC Business Manager)
  - Vickie Coffey (Director of Nutrition Services)
  - Audrey Myers (Director of Transportation)
  - Doug Uhls (EHS Teacher)
  - Gary Sims (EHS Teacher)
  - Rebecca Guest-Scott (EJHS Teacher)
  - Sue DeMoss (EIS Teacher)
  - Sarah Figg (EPS Teacher)
  - Heather Kensek (EECC Teacher)

#### **Overview of Reopening School Plan**

In a survey of R-BB students, parents, and staff in September of 2019, the word 'caring' was one of the top words used to describe the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation. We know by watching differing reactions to COVID-19 across our country, state, and county that part of our R-BB family will agree and others will disagree with the details of our Reopening School Plan. Yet in the most important detail, R-BB's Reopening School Plan was written with caring hearts for our students and staff.

Our R-BB family agrees on another very important detail: we believe that the best instruction takes place when teachers and students can work together in the classroom. For this reason, our R-BB Reopening Plan was designed to ultimately get our school corporation in a position to have school in session with classroom instruction as much as possible and in the most efficient and safest way possible during the 2020-2021 school year. To do this we must maintain a safe and healthy school environment and monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.

RBBCSC has done our best to stay out in front of an ever-changing COVID-19 situation. We have learned to plan ahead and be prepared to adjust that plan in the best interest of our students and staff. No matter your role in the R-BB family, we all need to be prepared with contingency plans in the event we are faced with another period of closure. R-BB's Reopening Plan was designed to minimize closure as much as possible given the circumstances.

Please <u>expect revisions and updates throughout the 2020-2021 school year</u> based on the information provided by federal, state, and local officials as the medical landscape and knowledge surrounding COVID-19 continue to evolve.

# Goals

- 1. To provide the safest environment possible for students and staff.
- 2. To provide R-BB students with the highest quality instruction.
- 3. To provide a continuous learning plan that will sustain in-school instruction as much as possible.
- 4. To provide a continuous learning plan that provides quality online instruction that promotes as much learning as possible.
- 5. To provide a continuous learning plan that leads students and staff back to a sense of normalcy in the most efficient and safest way possible.

# Individual Plans by School

- EECC
- EPS
- EIS
- EJHS
- EHS

# Corporation-Wide Plan

### Delivery of Instruction

Parents of students enrolled in the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation will be given the opportunity to choose between one of the following two options when registration for the 2020-2021 school year opens on July 7th:

- 1. In-School at EECC, EPS, EIS, EJHS, and EHS
  - o Traditional Model with extra safety measures.
  - o Instruction planned and delivered by R-BB teachers.
  - Indiana Licensed Teachers
  - o Indiana Academic Standards
  - Semester Commitment
  - In-School Students, who are excluded from school for reasons associated with COVID-19, will have instruction delivered by their classroom teacher electronically or through remote instruction

depending on the situation. Situations with students absent for long periods of time for other illnesses will be handled on a case by case basis.

#### 2. Virtual School Academy

The Virtual School Academy is available to any student who has social distancing, health or other COVID-19 related concerns regarding in-school instruction.

Options for in-school or virtual school is a semester long commitment.

Please note that true distance (virtual) learning is not E-Learning. The rigor and course load will be the same as those attending in-person school each day. However, the virtual school is not synchronous with the in-person school day.

Students enrolled in the Virtual School will not have opportunities for extra curricular or co-curricular activities taking place on RBBCSC campuses.

#### **Grades K-5**

Delivery of instruction will be provided through an online format by R-BB teachers serving in the following roles:

- Grade Level Support Teacher
  - Grade Level Support Teachers are R-BB general education teachers serving a classroom of in-school students.
  - Grade Level Support Teachers will be recorded teaching various lessons to their class of in-person students.
  - Grade Level Support Teachers will provide the Virtual Teacher with lesson plans, instructional materials, and educational activities relevant to the lessons.
  - Grade Level Support Teachers will not have direct interaction with students in the virtual academy.
- Virtual Teacher
  - The Virtual Teacher will deliver recorded lessons, instructional materials, and educational activities to students via an online platform.

- The Virtual Teacher will monitor student progress, deliver feedback, and make adjustments to instruction based on needs of the students.
- The Virtual Teacher will provide individual or small group sessions to students through scheduled Zoom meetings.
- The Virtual Teacher will grade all assignments and assessments.
- The Virtual Teacher will communicate with parents/guardians regarding their student's academic progress.

Students are expected to access virtual lessons every day of the school week but may do so any time of the day. Student attendance will be monitored daily.

Students will need their own device and internet provider for virtual instruction.

The Virtual School Academy will require a high degree of parental involvement.

Communication between home and school will be critical for the success of students.

- For issues related to instruction: Parents should first contact the Virtual Teacher as the most efficient way to address questions or concerns. If the issue is not resolved with the Virtual Teacher, contacting the principal would be the next step.
- For issues related to technology: Contact R-BB's Tech.
  Department.

#### Grades 6-12

- Delivery of instruction will be provided through Apex Learning.
- Students will self-pace through courses.
- Designated R-BB Instructional Assistants will monitor progress of students.
- Designated RBB Support Teachers will assist students in content areas
- Counselors will assist students in course selection.

- Attendance will be assessed through ongoing monitoring of regular progress by students.
- Student assignments and assessments will be graded by the Apex Teacher.
- Students will use their Chromebooks to access Apex Learning.
- Students enrolled in the Virtual School Academy will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

### Health Protocols for Schools

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). As such, RBBCSC will work closely with the Monroe County Health Department.

See Appendix A for additional information.

#### **Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School**

Students and employees will be trained on how to recognize and monitor the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Students or employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19, have someone in their home who has tested positive for COVID-19, or have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

The School Corporation may exclude any student or employee who exhibits one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained. See return to school guidance below for further information.

#### **Return to School After Exclusion**

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment (whether it be by a parent or guardian, a physician, other health care provider, or the school nurse), they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC.

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms (of illness) may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers);
- **AND** other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved;
- **AND** at least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

#### **Tested Positive- Symptomatic**

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough

- or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared and have been cleared by their health care provider; or
- The individual provides documentation that they have received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart or provides a letter from their health care provider.

#### **Tested Positive- Asymptomatic**

Students and employees who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return to school when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms and have been approved to do so in writing by their health care provider.

#### **Tested Positive- Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property**

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, RBBCSC will contact the Monroe County Health Department immediately and notify the Indiana Department of Education.

- Unless extenuating circumstances exist, RBBCSC will work with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to students and non-students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors that will determine building closure.
- It is the responsibility of the ISDH and the MCHD to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and give instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding self-quarantine and exclusions.
- The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the Monroe County Health Department.
- If a closure is determined necessary, RBBCSC will consult with the Monroe County Health Department to determine the status of school activities including extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs.

- As soon as RBBCSC becomes aware of a student or non-student who has been exposed to or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the custodial staff will be informed, so that impacted building or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- If possible, based upon student and non-student presence, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.
- Non Scheduled school closures may range from 2 to 5 days, or longer depending on the number of students and staff involved, as well as the general Covid-19 activity in the community at large.
- All school closures will be communicated to parents as soon as possible.

#### **Self-Screening**

- Current CDC guidelines recommend screening all students and employees for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure.
- All students and employees are required to self-screen before coming to school.
  - Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (see Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School listed above) without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.

### **Observational Screening at School**

- RBBCSC will provide professional development to employees regarding the recognition of COVID-19 symptoms and screening to improve observational reporting.
  - Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.

### **Medical Inquiries**

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given to

districts/schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent reports that a student is ill, RBBCSC may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, RBBCSC can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, RBBCSC may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Even without symptoms, if a student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a "hot spot" by the CDC, RBBCSC may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that the student or non-student self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

# Safety Measures

The following Safety Measures have been added to RBBCSC schools:

- Sanitizer dispensers have been placed in every classroom.
- Procedures and schedules (see below) for hand washing or sanitizing will be built into the school day.
- Sanitization and the enhanced cleaning of equipment and facilities will be conducted between use by students and staff.
- Students and staff will be expected to have a facial covering with them at all times.
- Students and employees will be expected to wear facial covering when social distancing is not possible.
- Situations may arise when additional PPE may be required for students and staff in classrooms, pending administrator approval.
- Students and staff may choose to wear facial covering at all times throughout the school day.
- Nutrition Services staff will be expected to wear facial coverings per Monroe County Lodging and Restaurant establishment quidelines.

- Recess minutes will be increased and Play Zones will be established to provide students with outside play while practicing social distancing.
- Students displaying COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will have a special area designated as a resting place outside of the clinic while waiting to be picked up.
- Attendance incentives will be discontinued for the 2020-2021 school year.
- No field trips will be taken during the 2020-2021 school year.

#### **Social Distancing Strategies**

- School will be re-organized to promote social distancing.
  - New Hallway Procedures will be taught to and practiced by students.
  - Classrooms will be organized so that desks are in rows and facing one direction.
  - The daily schedule will be revised to minimize the number of students in the hallways at one time.
  - Teachers of specific content areas will travel to general classrooms.
  - Recess time and other outside activities will be increased in order to give students opportunities for physical movement during the school day.
  - Breakfast and lunches will be brought to the general classrooms with the following exceptions:
    - Because primary students would have trouble eating meals in the classrooms, EPS students will go to the cafeteria. The cafeteria will operate at 50% capacity, students will be assigned seats and meals will be served to the students. Social distancing and extra clearing measures will be put into practice. The cafeteria will be sanitized between groups.

#### **Handwashing And Sanitizing Schedule**

Frequent handwashing and/or applying sanitizer and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others.

This is especially important after contact with a "high touch surface" such as doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, table tops and any shared item.

Procedures and class patterns will help to maintain the best opportunities possible for hand washing and/or sanitizing while students maintain social distance. These key times include:

- At the beginning and end of the school day.
- Every 60-90 minutes
- During Breakfast and Lunch
- After recess and when using the restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using shared equipment

#### **System of Daily Health Reports**

- o Attendance Rate for Students and Staff will be tracked daily.
- o Reasons for absences for Students and Staff will be tracked daily.
- A log of students reporting to the clinic will be maintained daily.

#### Safety Measures for School Offices

- Clear plastic guards hanging from the ceiling
- o Offices closed, appointments only.
- Those who do have appointments should wear facial coverings and will have their temperature taken.
- Visitors will not be permitted past the school office.

#### **Reporting System**

 Students, parents/guardians, staff, teachers, administrators must report any documented positive cases of COVID-19 in their school to the RBBCSC Superintendent immediately.

## **SEL Services**

- We recognize that the emotional well being of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost importance at this critical time.
- Social Emotional Services will continue to be provided to students and staff to address COVID-19 related anxiety, trauma, and stress.
- Social Emotional Support Staff will continue to provide professional development to teachers and staff in anxiety and trauma informed care and instruction.
- Social Emotional Support Staff will continue to work with students on an individual basis as needs are identified.
- Families in need will continue to be provided assistance and access to resources for services through the corporation's family support coordinator and student services coordinator.

# Special Education Considerations

- Students with disabilities shall continue to receive services in accordance with their applicable Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan based on methods and locations agreed upon and documented by the case conference committee team in order to meet the unique learning needs and goals of the student.
- Specially designed instruction, accommodations, modifications, services, LRE, etc., will be determined on an individual basis by the IEP case conference committee.
- Therapists and other staff that work in multiple rooms or buildings will follow RBBCSC health and safety protocols.

### **Before/After School Child Care**

#### Latchkey

- Hours
  - o Morning: 6:30 am until the beginning of school
  - o Afternoon: End of school 6:00 pm
- Latchkey will follow the same social distancing guidelines as classroom teachers.

- Students will be assigned to cohorts.
- Cohorts will be assigned to different areas each day in the gym, playground, library and EIS. Any equipment used will be sanitized at the end of each latchkey session.

#### Boys and Girls Club

- Students enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club will be transported to the club's facility in R-BB school buses.
- Only Boys and Girls Club students and staff will be on the bus.
- The transportation of students to the Boys and Girls Club will include the same protocols listed under Transportation below.

# Transportation

For the 2020-2021 school year, parents will be given the option in Harmony to make a semester-long commitment to riding a R-BB school bus or providing their students' own transportation.

Parents will have until September 8th to change their choice of transportation.

### **School Bus Option**

The school bus is often the student's first contact with the school in the morning and the last point of contact in the afternoon. We are paying particular attention to protocols used in student transportation to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect both students and employees.

Preparation and Cleaning and Inspection of all buses and transport vehicles for cleanliness and safety have taken place this summer.

The following are protocols the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation has put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. These precautions are not required by law but are taken as an additional precautionary measure in an effort to protect both students and staff.

- No more than two students per seat.
- Facial Coverings required on the bus.

- Students will only be able to ride on their designated buses-no exceptions.
- All bus seats and student areas will be sprayed using a CDC approved cleaning solution before and after each route, both morning and afternoon.
- Drivers and monitors will wear facial coverings during the route and while cleaning the bus.
- Students should have their facial coverings ready to put on prior to stepping on to the bus. Students will be required to wear school appropriate facial coverings during all bus rides.
- Students will be assigned a specific seat and must remain in that seat throughout the route.
- Windows will be open when possible.
- RBBCSC will wait a period of 24 hours before cleaning a bus/transportation vehicle that transported a passenger or had a driver who tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 will be observed. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Affected buses can be used immediately after cleaning.
- Bus routes have been modified to allow for less student exchange points and fewer riders where possible.

#### **Parent-Provided Transportation**

Parents picking up/dropping off children are to follow the protocols and groupings below. Parents are encouraged to carpool as much as possible.

#### Elementary AM Drop-off

- Group #1
  - Drop-off: 8:20 8:40 am
    - Single School Drop-off (EPS or EIS)
      - One building one or more children
    - Front of EPS/EIS
- Group #2
  - Drop-off: 8:45 9:05 am
    - Both Schools Drop-off (EPS AND EIS)
      - Children at both buildings
    - Front of EPS/EIS

#### Elementary PM Pick-up

- Group #1
  - Pick-up: 2:50 3:10 pm (Gates close at 3:10 pm)
    - Single School Pick-up (EPS or EIS)
      - One building one or more children
    - Front of EPS/EIS
- Group #2
  - Pick-up: 3:15 3:30 pm (Gates open at 3:15 pm)
    - Both Schools Pick-up (EPS AND EIS)
      - Children at both buildings
    - Front of EPS/EIS

#### Junior High

- Upon arrival in the morning, students will go straight to their period 1 class
  - Typically students arrive and go to cafeteria/gymnasium Breakfast will be served in classrooms or in the hallways on the way to the class (multiple stations)
- Dismissal will be staggered coordinate with transportation and admin team
  - o 1- Dismiss bus riders to move to busses (2:15)
  - o 2- Dismiss car riders to pick up location (2:20)
  - o 3- Dismiss walkers (2:25)

#### High School

- Students will be dropped off and picked up at the front of the building. We will consider that there might be more students so we will reconsider how to make it less congested.
- Staggered dismissal will be considered if necessary.

### **Immunizations**

All state immunization requirements remain in place.

# Appendix A

Appendix A includes additional information to help students, parents, and staff.

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/">https://www.cdc.gov/</a>

Checklist for Parents

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/schools-checklist-parents.pdf

Indiana Department of Education COVID-19 Resources <a href="https://www.doe.in.gov/covid-19">https://www.doe.in.gov/covid-19</a>

Indiana State Department of Health <a href="https://www.in.gov/isdh/">https://www.in.gov/isdh/</a>

Monroe County Health Department https://www.co.monroe.in.us/department/?structureid=12

Parents Frequently Asked Questions https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN\_COVID-19\_ParentsFAQ%206.27.20.pdf