



Alamance-Burlington  
Schools

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# **PLAN B FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PLAN B DAILY ROUTINE

**Will teacher assignments remain the same with the transition to Plan B?**

*Based on the number of students learning remotely, schools will review the number of requests and may make necessary adjustments. Every effort will be made to reduce disruption. While there may be some exceptions based upon the number of requests for all remote learning in a grade level at a particular elementary school, generally elementary teachers will be assigned to one of the two options. At the middle school level, it is possible that teachers may be assigned to separate sections of all remote and blended learning class sections.*

**Why did we modify Plan B to the AA/BB schedule and change school times for elementary and middle schools?**

*The district continues to work closely with the Alamance County Health Department. A product of that collaboration was a move to an AA/BB schedule, designating Wednesdays as a remote day for all students K-8. This will allow ACHD to conduct more efficient contact tracing if necessary.*

*Additionally school times have been modified to accommodate the transportation guidelines under Plan B. The updated times will allow our school buses to execute their daily routes.*

**Will students be sitting in a seat the entire day? Will they be allowed to go to specials (Music, Art, etc.)?**

*We intend to limit movement in buildings as much as possible to help reduce exposure to students and staff. Yes, students will still participate in specials.*

*For the most part, in elementary schools, specials' teachers will rotate in-person or virtually into classrooms. Weather permitting, PE may be held outdoors. Middle school students will change classrooms with as much staggering as possible.*

**What will specials look like? For example, does the district have enough materials to provide each child with the basic art supplies they are used to using?**

*Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Media/Library, and Physical Education teachers will use a variety of student tasks to ensure required safety procedures are followed. In each of the respective areas, appropriate social distancing will occur, face masks will be worn, sharing of supplies that can not be appropriately disinfected between uses will not be used, and instruction for classes such as band and PE may be provided outside whenever weather is permitting. For example, Media Specialists will implement a 7 day waiting period for shared print resources and have materials handling procedures developed in accordance with American Library Association guidance.*

**Under Plan B would the hours be the same for remote learning days as in-person days?**

*Students will follow their cohort schedule. There are instructional times on synchronous days (Cohort A: Monday and Tuesday; Cohort B: Thursday and Friday) that will provide real time instruction from the teacher for in-person and remote only students. Elementary School synchronous instruction will take place from 7:50am-2:35pm. Middle School synchronous instruction will take place from 9:30am-4:30pm. On asynchronous remote instruction days (Cohort A: Thursday and Friday; Cohort B: Monday and Tuesday) students will be self-paced and complete tasks and assignments in their learning platforms (Google Classroom and Canvas). All students will have synchronous remote instruction on Wednesdays that will take place from 8:00am-12:00pm for Elementary students and 8:30am-12:30pm for Middle School students.*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **PLAN B DAILY ROUTINE**

**Will students have a recess?**

*While we will plan opportunities for students to get out of the classrooms, playgrounds will not be open for students during recess. There will be other activities that allow students to socially distance themselves while outside.*

**Will my child simply be on a computer all day in a school building? Will students receive any instruction on days not in the school building?**

*Cohorts on synchronous (real time) instruction days can anticipate their teachers providing instruction in several forms, including: interactive discussions, guided practice, modeling, hands-on lessons, small group, independent practice with feedback, one-on-one instruction, well-being check-ins, and assessing as needed. Cohorts on asynchronous (teacher assigned) remote instruction days will independently complete lessons, watch instructional videos, and complete tasks aligned to their student learning progressions as assigned by the teacher within the student's learning platform: Google Classroom (K-5) or Canvas (6-8) at their own pace on these days. There will be opportunities for students to check in/ask questions with their teacher during school hours as needed.*

**What will remote learning look like for students on Wednesdays?**

*Teachers will facilitate real time, synchronous instruction with all students in their class via zoom. During this time, students will participate in social emotional learning activities, engage in a recap of the previous instructional week as well as hear the expectations for the upcoming instructional week and then will be released to work on independent tasks in their learning platforms for the remainder of the day.*

**If my student is only instructed on the two days inside of the school building and Wednesday, isn't this cutting instructional time in half?**

*Student learning is not limited to direct instruction by teachers. Learning progressions have been designed to advance students academically through both in-person instruction and student task completion.*

**What will the classroom environment look like? Will desks be distanced and students expected to stay in a particular spot all day?**

*Physical distancing is a key tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and reduce exposure for our students and staff. While students will remain physically distant, there are still opportunities for them to engage socially in the classroom. Classroom environments will be similar to previous school years, however there will be smaller cohorts of students inside of the classroom. Students will be assigned seats that meet social distancing guidance. While we intend to limit movement around the school buildings, there will still be opportunities to get outdoors and outside of the classroom.*

**When we go to the A/B schedule, will my student have the same teacher?**

*It is possible that students may be assigned to a new teacher in the transition to Plan B. This is more likely to be impacted by the number of students wishing to remain in remote only instruction.*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PLAN B DAILY ROUTINE

**What is the procedure for daily temperature checks/health screenings on campus?**

*Principals are working with their school nurses to determine staffing needs and locations for checking temperatures and completing health screenings for students and staff at the beginning of each school day. The district is following all guidance from the NC Department of Health and Human Services: [click here for more details](#). In general, students will participate in a daily health screening, including temperature check, before entering the building, by a staff member wearing appropriate PPE.*

**What will protocols look like for keeping students socially distanced on campus?**

*The district will abide by state-level guidelines for all K-12 public schools. Principals are reviewing daily school routines to make changes where needed to prevent large groups of students gathering such as before school, before breakfast, at recess and after school. All schools have signage that meets NCDHHS guidance to serve as reminders about waiting 6 feet apart and directing one-way campus traffic as needed. Staggered times for restroom breaks and meals, transitions to other parts of the building and recess will be implemented as needed to minimize the number of students in hallways throughout the day. Students will have assigned seating in classrooms that meet NCDHHS distancing guidance.*

**What are school protocols for daily cleaning?**

*The district will follow state-level guidance for K-12 public schools outlined by [NCDHHS](#). School custodial staff have received training in effective application of approved cleaning products designed specifically for helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Cleaning staff will focus on frequent cleaning of specified high touch surfaces and targeted areas as well as more frequent daily cleanings of common areas including desks, chairs restrooms, classroom sinks, etc. Classrooms will be cleaned daily by custodial staff and include a nightly sanitation schedule. Cleaning protocols will be coordinated around each school's daily classroom routines. ABSS has provided schools with approved cleaning products and has developed cleaning protocols and schedules to meet all state requirements for K-12 public schools. The district's contract cleaning company is hiring an additional disinfectant specialist per school for additional targeted cleaning.*

## PLAN B REMOTE ONLY OPTION

**If we choose to stay remote is that the same as Plan C?**

*As the district moves to our next phase of learning, Plan B, it is important to distinguish that this will differ from Plan C. Plan B does allow families to choose a remote only option for K-8 students, however, students will still be connected to a cohort and follow the cohort schedule. [Please see the Plan B Blended Learning Model document for details on cohorts](#).*

**What does the remote schedule look like, will our teacher remain the same, can we change our minds later?**

*With the district move to Plan B, our resources and teachers will be transitioning to blended learning models. Students and families can expect to see a combination of videos, self-paced content in learning platforms (Google Classroom/Canvas), independent tasks in learning platforms (Google Classroom/Canvas), as well as some scheduled zoom meetings for direct instruction and feedback. While ABSS understands there may be circumstances for students to change their method of instruction, we would prefer a commitment for the second nine weeks (ending January 15, 2021) so we can plan and allocate resources for our students and teachers.*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## PLAN B REMOTE ONLY OPTION

**Will Pre-K families have an option for remote learning?**

*The NC Pre-K Program is a federal and state guided program facilitated through ABSS. At this time, the state recommends in-person learning for Pre-K. ABSS is conducting a parent survey to determine if there is a need for a remote learning option.*

**Will students lose their spot in Spanish Immersion if we continue with remote only instruction?**

*No, at this time administrators are working to make sure our students can remain in the Spanish Immersion program while our teaching staff transition to blended learning. Please contact your school directly for more information.*

**Does my Middle School student, who chooses the remote only instruction option, get pulled from their current class schedule and placed in a remote academy?**

*While we are not using an academy model, it is possible that there may be a change in teacher assignment. Students will remain enrolled in their current middle school courses.*

## GENERAL

**Are preschoolers going to be required to wear masks?**

*No. Face coverings are not required for children under 5 years of age.*

**Is it possible to switch cohorts (A or B) if the schedule for the in-person instruction days works better for our family schedule?**

*Families should communicate this need to principals. If accommodated, students will need to remain in the assigned cohort for the remainder of Plan B.*

**Will students have mask breaks?**

*Per state guidance, we will work to build time throughout the day for students, teachers, and staff to take short breaks from wearing cloth face coverings in settings with low risk to exposure.*

**Will students be able to play on the playground?**

*While we will plan opportunities for students to get out of the classrooms, playgrounds will not be open for students during recess. There will be other activities that allow students to socially distance themselves while outside.*

**Will students have to wear masks at recess or during PE?**

*If a student is strenuously exercising during PE, face coverings are not required to be worn as outlined in the Executive Order No. 163. If a student is not strenuously exercising, face coverings must be worn. The American Heart Association defines a vigorous or strenuous activity as working at 70 to 85 percent of your maximum heart rate. Some, but all of these examples of this type of exercise include running, cycling, and jumping rope.*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## GENERAL

**Will classrooms and the school be cleaned on Wednesdays?**

*Cleaning protocols that meet NCDHHS guidelines will take place daily. The district has hired additional staff to help clean high touch surfaces throughout each day. The purpose of implementing the remote learning day on Wednesday is a product of our partnership with the Alamance County Health Department in order to help facilitate more efficient contact tracing (as needed).*

**Does the school district have enough cleaning materials or is my student's teacher expected to foot the bill for this?**

*ABSS has a 90-day supply of cleaning materials on hand and funding available to purchase additional cleaning supplies for the remainder of the school year.*

**Is ABSS planning on having some kind of open forum so that these questions and concerns can be discussed at any point?**

*The district conducted focus groups with parents and teachers to review Plan B options, receive input, and identify questions that needed to be answered. In addition, questions and concerns submitted via email have been taken into consideration in developing an FAQ.*

**Can someone explain why high school students are "recommended" to continue online only through the end of first semester?**

*To ensure the same level of health and safety for high school students they would need to remain in the same classroom most of the day. This would cause students to not be with their licensed teacher and potentially compromise credit for coursework.*

*Most fall semester high school courses end in January unlike K-8 courses that are year long. Transitioning to a blended instructional model in the middle of the semester for high schools will create scenarios where students would need to be reassigned to teachers and likely rescheduled in the middle of the semester. This would decrease a high school students' time with their current teachers and create a significant interruption to the teaching and learning process. Transitioning high school students at the beginning of a semester would be less disruptive.*

**Why is there still no discussion for plan A?**

*The district believes it is important to spend some period of time in Plan B before transitioning to Plan A. Once a successful transition to Plan B has occurred, a recommended timeline for transition to Plan A will be presented to the Board of Education. At this time, Governor Cooper has only made Plan A an option for students in Grade K-5.*

**What are grading expectations with some students in school and some in remote learning?**

*Student grades will reflect progress in learning progressions, and demonstrated mastery of standards. Student attendance, remote or in-person, will not directly impact student grades.*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## HEALTH

**What are the basic expectations for students, parents, staff and visitors who come on to a school campus?**

Upon arrival to a school, everyone has to take part in Health Screenings, which includes a temperature check and answering 3 attestation questions specific to COVID-19. All K-12 students, staff and visitors are required to wear masks on campuses and school buses. Everyone is also being required to maintain 6 feet social distancing and adhere to any signage specific to walkways, entrances or exits.

**What do I do if my child has COVID-19 like symptoms?**

*When students have any of the following symptoms: fever, chills, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new cough, new loss of taste or smell; it will be recommended that they be tested for COVID-19. Families can consult with their primary care provider or have their child tested at one of the community testing locations. Families are encouraged to consult with the school nurse to review symptoms and next steps.*

**What happens if a student is sick or has a fever at school?**

*The district will follow all health and safety requirements outlined by NCDHHS and in consultation with the Alamance County Health Department. Principals and school nurses are determining protocols for individual schools for ensuring that adults or students exhibiting possible symptoms of illness are isolated and that they leave campus as soon as possible. Each school has identified an isolation room to be used by students who exhibit symptoms while waiting for parent pickup.*

**If a student (or family member) is required to quarantine, what does this mean for other school aged children that live in the same household?**

*All other school aged children in the household will also need to stay home from school when there is someone else in the home with COVID-19 like symptoms (fever, chills, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new cough, new loss of taste or smell).*

**If a classmate becomes infected, does the whole class quarantine? Will the children in their siblings' classes also have to quarantine, too, as a possible contact with COVID-19?**

*The district works closely with the Alamance County Health Department when there is a positive case. Contact tracing will be conducted and close contacts will be notified. Close contacts will be required to quarantine as directed by the school nurse and the Alamance County Health Department.*

**What happens if a student in my child's classroom is positive for COVID-19?**

*Families will be notified based on guidance from the Alamance County Health Department. Depending upon contact tracing, students and staff may be required to quarantine as directed by the school nurse and the Alamance County Health Department.*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## NOTIFICATIONS

**Will the district begin sending out "COVID-19 Alerts" via its ConnectED and social media?**

While the district will not release confidential student or staff information, "close contacts" (individuals within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) who may have been potentially exposed to a person with COVID-19 will be directly notified. We will send out notifications for clusters of five or more cases.

**Why doesn't ABSS provide more specifics in its alerts, like whether it was a student, parent, staff member or visitor who has COVID-19?**

While COVID-19 is on the minds of everyone, a person's individual medical information is their own. While it is true that reporting this information wouldn't necessarily identify someone who has COVID-19 to the general public, our schools have gotten smaller in Plan B/C and Virtual, meaning there are fewer people coming onto our campuses. ABSS will not release any details in its alerts which, through the process of elimination, may lead to the identification of an "individual" that has COVID-19. ABSS will also make every effort to prevent creating an environment where upon return from quarantine a student or staff member may experience shame or some other negative feeling simply because they had gotten sick or diagnosed with COVID-19. Per NCDHHS guidance we will share information related to clusters at school locations.

**Will an alert be sent if someone who was at a school had to quarantine because they learned they are a "close contact"?**

Being a "close contact" and having COVID-19 are not the same thing. As such, ABSS will not send an alert simply because an individual at a school was named a "close contact" and asked to quarantine and self-monitor.

**Will ABSS release alerts for remote/virtual students or staff approved for teleworking who test positive for COVID-19?**

No. Our alerts serve as a public health awareness tool for all of the students, staff, parents and visitors who are physically coming on to our campuses. As there is community spread of COVID-19, it is a fact that there are going to be some ABSS students, staff and family members not coming on to our campuses who test positive for COVID-19.

**If I am at a school where an alert goes out. Does this mean I was exposed to someone with COVID-19?**

As a part of the district's response, any "close contacts" who were potentially exposed will be personally contacted and told to quarantine for 14 days and self-monitor. This means if you were at a school where an individual that tested positive was on the campus and you were not directly notified, then you are not considered a "close contact".



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## EMPLOYEE

**What happens if I get sick with COVID-19 from exposure in the school? Will I have to use up all of my sick time?**

*Employees who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine. Employees who test positive and are asymptomatic may be able to work remotely while in quarantine. Quarantine length will be directed by the school nurse and the Alamance County Health Department. If an employee tests positive and is sick, there is federal COVID leave available for up to 10 days. \*Note, the federal leave option (FFCRA) will expire 12/31/2020.*

**What happens if a student is sent to school on the wrong cohort day and we can't get in touch with their guardians?**

*School administration and support staff will make every effort to contact guardians. While waiting for the student to be picked up, arrangements will be made for the student to work on their independent work.*

**What happens if a student is sent to school sick and we can't get in touch with their guardians?**

*Each school has identified a supervised isolation space for students exhibiting symptoms. Students will remain under supervision until their guardian arrives.*

**What happens if there is a student in my classroom that tests positive for COVID-19? Will I and the rest of the class have to quarantine? Who will deliver instruction to the students?**

*The district works closely with the Alamance County Health Department when there is a positive case. Contact tracing will be conducted and close contacts will be notified. Close contacts will be required to quarantine as directed by the school nurse and the Alamance County Health Department. Substitutes will be available for in-person instruction.*

**When we transition to Plan B, will my roster change? Have parents been made aware that this could happen? This could affect how some parents decide. For example, a child and parent might adore a teacher and things are going smoothly, but due to grouping, they may have to be switched to another teacher. How will we handle it if the change doesn't work best for the student? How will this affect children who already have a difficult time forming relationships with teachers if they have to be switched to a different teacher? Are there plans in place to support these students?**

*It is possible that students may be assigned to a new teacher in the transition to Plan B. This is likely to be impacted by the number of students wishing to remain in full remote instruction. Every effort will be made to minimize the number of students impacted. It will be important for teachers to work together to support the student in transitioning.*

**Why are we adding stress on our students and testing them on BOG and Check Ins when we know that the instruction students have been receiving has not been equitable?**

*We are required by NC to assess students when they return to in-person learning for state assessments. For formative assessments the district is continually evaluating opportunities to appropriately administer local assessments. From a formative perspective, this information is needed to inform the student's personalized learning progression.*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## EMPLOYEE

**How/when will teachers have time to meet or contact families and students that are online?**

*Early Release days on Wednesdays will provide teachers the opportunity to plan and meet along with their regular planning period. We have always expected teachers to stay in contact with their families. Teachers should consult with their principal if they have questions.*

**What role will Teacher Assistants play when students return under Plan B?**

*Teaching Assistants will work to support students in their learning progressions as always. They are vital in supporting small group instruction and one-on-one support for students in classrooms. Each school will have a plan in place to utilize TAs to their fullest potential to support students and families. Classroom rotations may be adjusted to accommodate schedule alterations needed during Plan B instruction. Principals will be working with teachers to determine schedules.*

**What plans are in place for students who exhibit behavioral issues related to limited ability to leave the classroom environment created by the COVID-19 guidelines? What additional support will be provided for teachers and TAs? What if a student is out of control, will other students be removed?**

*Teachers will continue to implement behavioral management plans, including appropriate disciplinary consequences in the classroom, as well as those requiring the assistance of an administrator. It may be necessary to remove students briefly from a classroom setting in a manner that maintains physical distancing.*

**How are teachers expected to maintain social distance in elementary classrooms?**

*School administrators will work with teachers to ensure that classrooms meet state guidelines/requirements for appropriate seating and furniture placement. Teachers can utilize furniture placement strategies to help maintain appropriate social distancing between students and themselves.*