



# Baldwin County School District

## 2020-2021

**THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS AND  
EMPLOYEES ARE OUR TOP PRIORITY.**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Baldwin County School District is working diligently to identify the most effective instructional models for safely reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. We have received valuable input from employees, parents, Local School Governance Teams, BCSD Task Force Committee members, and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, the pandemic is very volatile, creating many questions and concerns as information rapidly changes and new information becomes available. Parents have the option of choosing traditional in-person instruction (a regular Monday through Friday schedule) or remote learning, or Baldwin Online for their children. Parents must sign up for remote learning which is a short-term commitment through Baldwin online.*

*We will continue to follow the guidance of the Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as we move forward and finalize decisions for reopening the Baldwin County Schools.*

*In this document, we have answered questions that parents and employees have asked during our town hall meetings or through surveys. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Baldwin County Schools at (478) 453-4176 or email Felicia Cummings, School and Community Relations Coordinator, at [felicia.cummings@baldwin.k12.ga.us](mailto:felicia.cummings@baldwin.k12.ga.us).*

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## **Instructional Models**

**What is the difference between remote learning, Baldwin Online Academy, and homeschooling?**

These terms are sometimes used interchangeably, but are actually **VERY** different models of learning.

- ❑ **Baldwin Online Academy** is an online learning program available for students that want to participate in online learning for the **entire school year**. You can apply on the district webpage at [baldwincountyschoolsga.org/baldwin-online-academy](http://baldwincountyschoolsga.org/baldwin-online-academy). Edgenuity will be the curriculum platform used by the Baldwin Online Academy. Courses will be taught by Baldwin County teachers and/or Edgenuity teachers. Students may enroll for a minimum one semester and may return to their home school after the grading period has ended for students in grades.
- ❑ **Remote learning** is an instructional model in which students receive instruction by Baldwin County teachers via a computer. **This is a short-term commitment** for a minimum of nine weeks if the student is enrolled in grades K-8 or for the entire semester if the student is enrolled in grades 9th-12. Parents will also need to complete this registration process through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Students will use GoogleSuite / GoogleClassroom / Edgenuity to:

- Access their online learning (GoogleMeet)
- Access their courses
- Access supplemental tools and resources
- Take assessments
- Review grades
- Manage their course schedule
- Participate in an orientation for students and parents on these platforms provided by the technology department.

This learning model will include a variety of learning activities, to include assignments, and video chats tailored to grade level and subject and with a specified timeline for completion that should be strictly adhered to by students and predominantly within normal school hours.

- ❑ **Traditional In-Person Model** is an instructional model where students will attend school five days per week in-person and adhere to the Baldwin County School District Guidelines and safety protocols.
- ❑ **Homeschooling** is not affiliated with the local school district. Homeschooling parents are responsible for providing instruction for their child at home using a homeschool curriculum. The Georgia Department of Education provides guidance for homeschooling in the state of Georgia. Additional information may be found at <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/Home-Schools.aspx>.

**Chromebooks**

**Will there be only one device per household with multiple students?**

No. Every student in grades K-12 will be issued/assigned a Chromebook.

In order to supply the very best software and computers, the district will be charging \$30 per year (\$15 per semester), per student. We will be assigning students Chromebooks this year in all grades. Grades 3-12 will be taking these devices home daily. Students in grades K-2 will also be assigned a device but will not be taking it home unless there is a school closure. WiFi will be available in the parking lots of all school buildings and the board office. The district will also have mobile hotspot units available for buses that can be parked in neighborhoods that do not have reliable internet access. Individual hotspots will be available for student check-out on a case-by-case basis. Digital professional learning will be offered to better prepare teachers for online and remote learning instruction. Workshops will be offered to parents on the digital resources available to students.

**Will the school district provide the materials that the students need at home (laptop, books, etc.)?**

Baldwin County Schools will issue/assign a Chromebook to each student in grades K-12.

Everything needed for Baldwin Online Academy will be available online through Edgenuity. The Baldwin County Digital Learning Website will continue to be updated. This website will help students, parents, and teachers with remote learning. Parents and students can quickly and easily access technology services utilizing the link the following link [Digital Learning Website](#) and also request any needed help.

**Will parents be able to exchange damaged or slow ChromeBooks for a newer model?**

Yes, we will repair or replace damaged devices. A \$30 annual fee will be charged to each student.

**Baldwin Online Academy**

**How do we sign our children up for Baldwin Online Academy?**

The application is available on the district website at [www.baldwincountyschools.ga.org](http://www.baldwincountyschools.ga.org). New students will complete our Infinite Campus Online Registration available on the Baldwin County Website. Returning students will need to complete our Infinite Campus Annual Update. These registration sites allow parents to choose which type of learning model they would like their children to participate in. This is imperative because this information will help us know the number of students we need to plan for on our buses, for in-person instruction, and for remote learning.

**What instructional platform will Baldwin Online Academy use?**

Edgenuity will be the instructional platform used by Baldwin Online Academy. By using Edgenuity's courseware, we will be able to provide all required academic courses, as well as a wide variety of electives to all K-12 students.

**When (during the school day) will teachers check in on students completing work online and answer the many questions from their parents?**

Teachers will be expected to monitor student progress, grade submitted assignments, and provide tutoring, support, and feedback on a daily basis. Teachers will also be teaching live sessions every day.

**Can students enrolled in Baldwin Online Academy participate in school athletics?**

Yes. The Baldwin County Schools will allow students in good standing to participate in school athletics. For extracurricular activities, Georgia High School Association & Georgia Department of Education guidelines will be followed.

**For students enrolled in Baldwin Online Academy, will teachers be available to answer questions?**

Yes. Those courses will be taught by Baldwin County teachers and Edgenuity's teachers. Students will also have access to a tutor Monday through Friday. Teachers will be expected to monitor student progress, grade submitted assignments, and provide tutoring, support, and feedback on a daily basis.

**Will students be able to work at their own pace if they participate in Baldwin Online Academy?**

There will be protocols and structures in place to ensure accountability and participation. Students will be able to access assignments anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and students may work ahead. However, they must complete assignments by the due date.

**Since some parents work during the day, can online learning be more flexible?**

There will be protocols and structures in place to ensure accountability and participation. Students will be able to access assignments anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and students may work ahead. However, they must complete assignments by the due date.

**Will BCSD provide hands-on materials tied to the curriculum such as required readings, etc. for students enrolled in Baldwin Online Academy?**

All materials for Baldwin Online Academy will be accessible online.

**If a student enrolls in Baldwin Online Academy, is taking the Georgia Milestones still required?**

Baldwin Online Academy students will be required to take the same state mandated assessments as other students.

**Will Baldwin Online Academy support the Montessori Program or will their specific teachers provide their instruction/work?**

No, Baldwin Online Academy uses Edgenuity and it does not support students in the Montessori Academy.

**Will there be tutors for students working from home?**

Students enrolled in Baldwin Online Academy course will have access to a teacher on school days and a tutor will be available Monday through Friday.

**How will you check student attendance?**

For students enrolled in Baldwin Online Academy, every five assignments that are past due will equate to one absence.

## **Traditional/In-Person Instruction**

**Will students be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school?**

No. That is an individual family decision. However, all persons who are sick will be expected to stay at home and all persons who become sick will be sent home immediately.

**Will teachers be required to be tested for COVID-19 before returning to work?**

No, teachers will not be required to be tested for COVID-19. Employees of the school district are not required to have COVID-19 testing done prior to coming to work. However, if an employee becomes ill, employees should follow the BCSD COVID-19 protocols for reporting COVID-19 test results.

**Will the district do contact tracing as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of 65% of each building population?**

No, the Georgia Department of Public Health will conduct contact tracing.

**Will Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) be provided to students?**

Students in grades K-12 will be provided with at least one cloth facemask and have the option of bringing a mask from home. Students will also have soap and hand sanitizer available throughout the schools.

**Will students have recess time?**

Appropriate grade levels will still have recess time.

**Will there be bathroom monitors to ensure cleaning?**

No, there is a day porter from the cleaning company assigned to each of the school buildings. Routine cleaning and disinfecting of facilities by custodians will take place daily. Custodial staff will adhere to the CDC guidelines on cleaning and using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

approved chemicals to fight the spread of COVID-19. High traffic areas and "touch points" are continually sanitized with daily cleaning of all occupied areas.

**Will bookbag and uniform requirements stay the same?**

Yes. Students attending traditional classes will be required to adhere to the bookbag and uniform guidelines.

**What type of masks are allowed? For example, would a mask with designs be approved?**

Any type of face covering is allowed, as are clear face shields. The design itself should adhere to dress code rules, following conventionally accepted standards and not being a distraction. In accordance with board policy governing student conduct, clothing - to include masks - shall be free of inflammatory, suggestive, racial, or other inappropriate writing, advertisement, or artwork.

**If students return to school, will they be required to wear uniforms since parents haven't been out to buy anything?**

Yes. If they attend classes on campus, they must wear uniforms.

**Will the classroom teacher be responsible for online learning and classroom learning?**

No, classroom teachers will not be responsible for both instructional models. Some classroom teachers will provide in-person instruction and others will provide remote learning instruction to the students assigned to them. When, and if, it becomes necessary to close the schools, the classroom teacher will implement the remote learning plan.

**How do you sign a student up for remote learning?**

Parents can apply through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal by clicking on the following link <http://ow.ly/nNoa50AunBx>. Parents must complete the Infinite Campus Annual Update and after completing the update, parents will be allowed to choose the remote learning method of instruction.

**Will students social distance during meals?**

Students will practice social distancing as much as possible in all areas of the school buildings. Students will participate in hand washing before and after meal service. Meals will be eaten in the classrooms and social distancing guidelines will be in place during mealtime.

**Will the schools be cleaned before students return and what will be the cleaning process when school is back in session?**

Yes. Schools will be cleaned prior to the opening of school. Schools will also be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day on a daily basis following a routine cleaning schedule. Disinfecting wipes will be provided to teachers and office staff for use on high "touch point" areas throughout the day. Custodians will adhere to the CDC guidelines on cleaning and the use

of EPA approved chemicals to fight the spread of COVID-19. High traffic areas and "touch points" are continually sanitized with daily cleaning of all occupied areas.

**When a student or staff member tests positive, will the parents be notified? When will the person be able to return?**

Yes. The BCSD has established a reporting system to notify parents when a student, staff, or faculty member tests positive that may have been in contact with the student. A letter of notification will be sent home to parents, faculty, and staff. While we are obligated to maintain privacy laws, we can notify parents of the potential exposure. The Department of Public Health will conduct contact tracing.

**How many students will be in a classroom if you social distance?**

Schools will space desks and tables in classrooms to ensure social distancing. Students are discouraged from sharing books, materials, supplies, or equipment. All employees and students will be expected to maintain physical distance to the greatest extent possible. Desks and seating areas will be arranged in classrooms to maximize space between students and students will also face the same direction as much as possible.

**What about students that attend Ombudsman?**

Our alternative education program is now Baldwin Success Academy, will continue to be in operation at 127 Executive Parkway, Milledgeville, GA and abide all procedures for the Baldwin County School district.

**Will there be support programs for homeschooling?**

Homeschooling is not supported by the local school district. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for questions pertaining to homeschooling.

<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/Home-Schools.aspx>.

However, homeschool parents who live in Baldwin County may enroll their student in Baldwin Online Academy at no charge if the student resides in Baldwin County.

**If we have to close schools and transition to remote learning, will supports be provided?**

Yes. Students will be supported in their learning by BCSD faculty and staff.

**Are there any considerations/plans being made for mental health for students and employees?**

Yes. The school district offers social and emotional support to all of their students and employees. Social-Emotional Learning will be incorporated into the curriculum to support the needs of the whole-child. The BCSD Mental Health and Wellness Task Force has developed a plan to address the mental health of faculty, staff, families, and students. Employees should take advantage of the Employee Assistance Program.

**Will students' temperatures be checked upon their arrival at school each day?**



There will be temperature checks on a daily basis. Staff and students will be required to check their temperature before coming to school and will be checked upon arrival. Employees and students who are sick should **STAY HOME**. Visitors must adhere to temperature checks and PPE guidelines as well.

**Will there be sanitizer stations available for students entering and leaving classrooms?**

Sanitizer stations will be installed in all schools.

**Will there be a counselor available to help students cope with the changes due to COVID-19?**

Yes, each school has one or more full-time school counselors on staff. The BCSD Mental Health and Wellness Task Force have developed a plan to address the mental health of faculty, staff, families and students. Employees should take advantage of the Employee Assistance Program. Counselors will be available to assess and address psychological and emotional concerns.

**Will Class DOJO remain a communication tool?**

Yes. Class DOJO will be used at the Early Learning Center, Lakeview Primary, Midway Hills Primary, Lakeview Academy, Midway Hills Academy, and Oak Hill Middle School. Baldwin High School will use Remind as a communication tool.

**If a student or employee tests positive, what protocol will be used to clean the school and return students to school?**

With any confirmed case and/or upon request, the custodial staff upon the direction of administration will isolate, deep clean and electrostatically spray/fog with EPA approved Bioesque Solution and/or Virex II 256 all impacted classrooms and spaces.

**Will the desks be cleaned after each class leaves or before another class enters a classroom?**

Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day. Disinfecting wipes will be provided to teachers and office staff to use on high “touch point” areas throughout the day. High traffic areas and “touch points” are continually sanitized with the daily cleaning of all occupied areas.

**Is the school system able to purchase hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies?**

Yes. We have access to vendors for purchasing those items in bulk. The district procured cleaning products, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and gloves for use throughout the day. Regular breaks are allowed throughout the school day to wash hands with soap for 20 seconds or to use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

<b><u>Early Learning Center</u></b>
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**What does remote learning look like for Early Learning Center (ELC) students?**



Due to the age of the students at the ELC, remote learning is not a viable option. However, parents will be provided with a packet of materials that they can work on with their child.

**Will the Early Learning Center (ELC) be open for school?**

Yes, the ELC plans to open when other schools open.

**Is the ELC still having orientation July 26?**

Yes, a traditional orientation is planned. If that is not feasible, we will provide a virtual orientation.

**If a child in Pre-K starts school in person and the school has to close, what is the plan if there is no remote learning?**

Books and packets of materials will be sent home for parents to use when working with their children.

**How will the 3-year-old program at the ELC work?**

It will continue as it always has and follow the district calendar and protocols.

**Will the Montessori Pre-K students follow the same schedule or will they be on the GCSU schedule?**

The Pre-K Montessori Program will follow the Baldwin County School District schedule.

**Baldwin High School/Georgia College Early College**

**Would Georgia College Early College (GCEC) students return to school or would they continue the remote learning?**

GCEC students will begin school following the University System of Georgia guidelines as well as the Baldwin County School District.

**Will there be any supplies required this year at the high school?**

Supply lists will be made available during the first week of school. Check the Baldwin High School website for additional information.

**What about students that drive?**

Student driving privileges will remain an option for students attending in-person classes.

**Special Education Services**

**What about students with special education services?**

Students with disabilities will continue to receive instruction from the school district. Special education providers will continue the work with families to collaboratively identify the most essential services for each student that can be provided both directly and indirectly in remote and in-person learning environments. Contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Traci White, Director of Programs for Exceptional Children, for concerns specific to your child. [traci.white@baldwin.k12.ga.us](mailto:traci.white@baldwin.k12.ga.us) or (478) 457-2915.

**How will students be tested for Special Education services if they were in the process of being tested before the schools closed?**

Students needing an in-person assessment in order to determine eligibility for special education services will be scheduled for testing when it is safe for both the evaluator and the student to participate in the assessment.

**Will parents of the PEC population be informed of procedures during the school day to prepare students for returning to school?**

All parents will be informed of our new school procedures to help their students prepare for the return to school.

**What are the precautions for PEC students that have a medical condition?**

Parents of students with medical conditions are encouraged to consult their child's doctor for professional guidance.

**What is being done for our PEC population that have sensory issues that return to school and struggle with wearing masks?**

Some students, such as students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions or other sensory sensitivities, may have challenges wearing a cloth face covering. Families should consult with their healthcare provider for advice about wearing cloth face coverings. If cloth face coverings cannot be used, make sure to take other measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread, including social distancing, frequent hand washing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

## **Gifted Programs**

**How will the gifted program work?**

Gifted and Advanced Placement (AP) classes will be available with all models of instruction provided by the Baldwin County Schools.

**How will online or remote learning students get pulled for gifted testing?**

Students identified for gifted testing that enroll in Baldwin Online Academy or remote learning will be given an appointment to come to the school for gifted testing.

## **Transportation**

### **Will the bus routes start at the same time as usual or will they start earlier?**

Currently, the transportation department will be working on new bus routes based on how many students choose in-person instruction.

### **How will social distancing be handled on buses?**

While it is not feasible to social distance on buses, the Baldwin County Schools will take reasonable precautionary measures. We are looking at modified social distancing models to address the issue. Students are required to wear a mask/face covering while riding the bus. Buses will load starting from back to front and unload from front to back. Assigned seats will be issued to minimize the spread of germs. Hand sanitizer will be made available for student use on each bus. Buses will be cleaned frequently between routes and at the end of each day with disinfectant solution.

## **Other**

### **If my child gets sick with COVID-19, will Baldwin County Schools pay for their medical expenses?**

No. Parents/Guardians decision to send their child(ren) to school is optional. Baldwin County Schools will offer multiple instructional models to select from, including enrollment in the Baldwin Online Academy (an online only model that does not require students to attend on-campus classes).

### **If schools reopen, how will students get their class schedule?**

Student schedules will be available in Infinite Campus. Directions for signing up for a parent account in Infinite Campus are on the district website. All parents should create an account as soon as possible and prior to the beginning of school.

### **If the remote or in-person model is chosen, will students have a chance to meet their new teacher(s)?**

It is our hope that students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers prior to the beginning of school. However, that will be dependent upon the current level of community spread of COVID-19.

### **Does either of the committees consist of actual parents and teachers of Baldwin County children?**

Yes. Teachers of the Baldwin County School District and parents of BCSD students are on the Task Force Committee.

**If a student goes back to in-person learning, is it guaranteed that there will be a nurse at every school?**

All Baldwin County Schools have a nurse on-site.

**Will there be nurses at the schools for students that have bronchitis?**

There is a nurse at each school. However, students who are sick or have a respiratory infection such as bronchitis should stay home until they are well enough to protect themselves and to prevent others from exposure to their illness. Parents of students with health issues are encouraged to seek medical advice prior to sending their child to school.

**Is there any way for parents to see what the current community spread level is?**

The Georgia Department of Public Health updates confirmed cases of COVID-19 daily at: [www.dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report](http://www.dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report)

**In the event of a staggered school day being implemented, will siblings be on the same schedule?**

Yes. Siblings will be on the same schedule when possible.

**Will state required tests be waived this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

The Georgia Department of Education has requested a waiver of state-mandated testing for the 2020-2021 school year. We have not received notification of the US DOE decision at this time. Once GaDOE receives approval or denial of the waiver request, they will notify local school districts and make a public announcement.

**How will the recent budget cuts affect our schools?**

The Baldwin County Board of Education has been good stewards of taxpayer revenues. As a result of having a healthy fund balance, the Baldwin County School District will not impose furlough days or cut programs for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Will staff members call and reach out to the parents and students as they did in the Spring 2020 closure?**

Yes, teachers will be expected to communicate with parents on a regular basis.

**Is internet access going to be made available to all students?**

It is the goal of the BCSD that all students have availability to internet access. We plan to install hot spots in various communities/neighborhoods and on buses for hot spot mobility. There will also be access in the parking lot of all school district buildings, as well as the board office.

**Does the Governor's Executive Order impact the opening of schools?**

It does not prohibit the reopening of schools. That decision has been left up to local school districts. We will be in close communication with the Georgia Department of Public Health as

we move forward and finalize decisions. However, it does impact employees and students who are members of a vulnerable population.

**Will visitors and parents be required to wear face masks and have their temperature checked upon entering buildings?**

Yes. The number of nonessential visitors, external groups, and organizations will also be limited. Visitors must adhere to temperature checks and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) guidelines as well.

**Are furlough days planned for the upcoming school year and if so, what weekdays are tentatively planned for the furlough days? How will this affect in-person days and/or the remote learning schedule?**

No. Furlough days are not planned for the 2020-2021 school year.

**What steps are being taken to ensure that there will be enough soap in the student bathrooms?**

Supplies will be ordered in bulk and distributed to the schools.

**Will students participate in recess, PE, music, etc.?**

We anticipate that students participating in the traditional in-person model will participate in recess, PE, music, etc. However, these classes or their location may be modified to allow for social distancing.

**What about the students that have a medical condition?**

Parents of students with medical conditions are encouraged to consult their child's doctor for professional guidance.