

**BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
SCHOOL REOPENING & COVID RESPONSE PLANS
SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021**



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July 23, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents, and Community,

On Monday, July 20, 2020, our School Board approved plans to *Reopen Our Schools*. You can find copies of our district's and each school's reopening plans at <https://www.bamberg1.com> and on the district's Facebook page. While our reopening plans were approved, please understand that these are "living" plans which are subject to change as COVID-19 conditions change or as any federal or state mandates change. Please know the health, safety, and well-being of our faculty, staff, students, and their families have been at the forefront of our thinking and planning processes and will continue to be so as we move forward. We have taken and will continue to take all available information on hand into consideration when developing plans for the safe return of faculty, staff, and students and for the safe delivery of quality educational services.

The first step in our reopening process was to form a multidisciplinary district task force team comprised of administrators, parents, teachers, technology personnel and nurses to begin planning for the safest and most effective way to reopen our schools. We surveyed parents and all staff to include their input on our plans. 588 parents and 186 staff members responded to our surveys. Results from the surveys indicate 40% of parents wanted a face-to-face option, 40% wanted a virtual/distance learning option, and 20% were undecided. As for staff, 80% indicated they were willing to return to school face-to-face. This information, along with information from our State Department of Education (SCDE), SC DHEC, the CDC, and AccelerateED guided our reopening plans. Other factors considered included our shared services and personnel with Bamberg District Two, and our sharing of the COPE Area Career & Technology Center with Orangeburg Consolidated School District. Further, state legislation passed in June requiring all districts to add 5 additional learning days on to the beginning of school calendars for LEAP (Learn, Evaluate, Analyze, and Plan) activities was also a factor.

In efforts to adhere to state legislation and to keep our reopening plan(s) similar to neighboring districts, the Board approved Option 2 which includes schools restarting in August with all students beginning virtually for at least two weeks, and after Labor Day, or September 8th, students will attend school face-to-face, depending on community circumstances. Students enrolled in the Virtual Program will continue with online learning. The district's reopening plan and calendar now show professional development for all staff the week of August 10th, LEAP week activities the week of August 17th, and all students beginning school in a virtual/distance learning setting on August 24th. Attendance will be kept/monitored for all students in either option. Details regarding virtual/distance learning will be provided to parents when they register for this option.

To help us plan for the number of students who will attend school face-to-face, it is imperative that parents who wish for their child(ren) to participate in virtual/distance learning indicate this choice by completing our [*Virtual/Distance Learning Option Registration form*](#) by August 4th. This form can be found and completed online at www.bamberg1.net/2021 or our [Facebook page](#). Parents without Internet access can obtain a paper copy of the application and complete it in person at any of our schools, or the district office. Parents can contact me by phone at 803-245-6654 or by email at dbrown@bamberg1.net, or they may contact their child's school if they have questions.

Again, safety is our priority! As we plan for students to reenter school buildings, we want parents and staff to be assured we are taking every possible precaution to protect their health and well-being. To every extent possible, we will follow safety guidelines provided by the SCDE, SC DHEC, and the CDC in regards to social distancing, masks, buses, visitor restrictions, and cleaning of facilities and buses. Additional details regarding safety can be found in the reopening plans.

We are excited to begin a new school year and to start the process of reopening our schools! I encourage all of you to review our reopening plans and to contact myself or your child's school administrator with any questions. I look forward to working with all of you this 2020-2021 school year!

Sincerely,

Dottie Brown

Dottie Brown, Interim Superintendent

Summary of Reopening Plan



Bamberg District One Reopening Our Schools

Aug 10 - 14



Professional Development week for all staff/all schools (to include training/coaching for all cert. teachers on providing distance learning)

Aug 24 - Sept 4



Start date for all students.

***All students start in virtual option.**

Aug 17 - 21



LEAP week for **K-8 students** - Face-to-face for 5 days a week. Activities: *student orientation to face/face and distance learning models, mandatory assessments, 1-to-1 devices and myfi dissemination, SEL check, etc.*

Grades 9-12 students will be working with guidance and their teachers for distance learning/F-2-F orientation and for their taking mandatory assessment)

Sept 8th -



Face to Face begins for students/parents that chose this option. Virtual continues.

***Students in virtual option will continue with virtual learning until end of grading period for grades K-8 and end of semester for grades 9-12.**

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District Reopening Task Force Members

Dottie Brown	Interim Superintendent
Robert Kearsy	Assistant Superintendent
Devon Blume	Finance Director
Ricky Padgett	Information Technology Director
Billy Ott	Maintenance Director
Phyllis Overstreet	Federal Programs & Safety Coordinator
Michelle Kinsey	District Lead Nurse
Cynthia Tucker	Powerschool Coordinator
Heather Zwiker	Food Service Director
Stacey Walter	RCES Principal
Johnathan Goodman	RCES Asst. Principal
Denise Miller	BEMS Principal
Dennis Ulmer	BEHS Principal
Jordan Smith	BEHS Asst. Principal
Heather Ulmer	BEHS Director of Guidance
Curtis Williams	Transportation Director
Robert Williams	Athletic Director

Introduction

Through collaborative staff and stakeholder efforts, and in following health and safety guidelines provided by the SC State Department of Education, the final SC AccelerateEd Guidelines, the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Bamberg School District One presents our *“Reopening Our Schools”* plan. This plan embodies our priorities which are ensuring the health and safety of staff and students to every extent possible while meeting the educational needs of our students and with considerations to current COVID-19 conditions in our community. As COVID-19 conditions change in our community, so will our plan in efforts to continue meeting the needs of our students and community and to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.

School Start Date

In consideration of parent and staff survey results and in consideration of current COVID-19 conditions, Bamberg School District One will reopen schools the week of August 10-14 for five days of LEAP (Learn, Evaluate, Analyze, and Plan) activities for grades 4K-12. Faculty and staff will report the week of August 17-21 for five professional development/classroom work days, and all students will begin school Monday, August 24. The district will offer parents and students the options for students to attend school face-to-face for five days a week or to attend virtually. However, given the current disease spread status in Bamberg is identified as “HIGH,” students will begin on August 17 with virtual instruction at home, but will have the option to either continue with virtual learning or attending face-to-face beginning Tuesday, September 8 (after Labor Day).

Face-to-Face Option

The health and safety of staff and students are the cornerstone of our reopening plans as well as considerations to the needs of our students and our community at present. With that, Bamberg District One will offer students the option of attending school face-to-face five days a week beginning on or after September 8. Information and data from the following were considered when deciding on a face-to-face learning option for students:

- Survey results from parents and staff indicate a need and desire for a face-to-face option for various reasons including students needing personal interaction and instruction from teachers, especially those with disabilities or special needs, as well as other reasons. Further, survey results for both parents and staff indicated their willing to and wanting to return to school face-to-face with the proper safeguards in place.
- Precautions that meet the guidelines from the SC State Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control, S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, and from AccelerateED are in place at all schools and on buses including:
 - all classrooms and other areas set up to allow for social distancing (either 6 ft or to every extent possible);
 - all staff and students in grades PK-12 will wear face coverings (i.e. masks or shields) at all times and on the bus;
 - bus capacity limited to adhere to SDE guidelines (i.e. 67% capacity with face coverings worn by all); and
 - regular cleaning and disinfecting all classrooms, areas, equipment, and buses, etc.;
- Recommendations from the South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as the National AAP strongly support students being physically present in schools to the extent practicable for their social and emotional well-being. The district concurs that children are more apt to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically when in school.

School Requirements

Bamberg One schools have school-level task force teams in place and have developed reopening plans specific to their school's needs. Individual school plans are available at www.bamberg1.net/2021.

Medically Fragile Students and Staff

Students and/or staff who ask for accommodations regarding school and/or work attendance based on medical necessity will need to provide appropriate documentation and their situations will be evaluated and accommodations determined on a case-by-case basis. All local, state, and federal confidentiality and other legal guidelines, policies, and procedures will be adhered to.

Regular Communications

Parents, staff, and community members will be informed of district operational and educational decisions in as timely a manner as possible. The Bamberg School District One Website, social media pages, and the AlertNow system will be used to ensure timely communications. Bamberg One encourages two-way communications regarding school reopening, its COVID-19 response efforts, as well as any other parent

concerns. Parents are encouraged to contact principals, the district office, and/or Interim Superintendent Brown at any time with their questions, suggestions, comments, or concerns.

Distance Learning

Parents will be provided the opportunity to opt-in for virtual/distance learning for students for the 2020-2021 school year. The virtual/distance learning plan for this year is as follows:

- Virtual/Distance Learning Platforms: K-12: Google classroom; in addition, APEX Learning for 9-12; Schoology; and additional programs may be added upon further investigation by instructional staff
- Once final virtual/distance learning selections are made by parents, the three Bamberg One schools will collaborate to determine the scheduling needs of siblings who have opted for virtual/distance learning to eliminate to the extent possible any scheduling conflicts
- Students enrolled in the Bamberg One virtual/distance learning program will be provided with a device (ex. Chromebook) and will be expected to use that device for virtual/distance learning; families who have limited or no home Internet service will be provided with My Fi (broadband hotspot) devices to facilitate virtual/distance learning
- Parents and students will be expected to follow the district Acceptable Use policy regarding technology
- Orientation to and practice for virtual/distance learning will be conducted during the LEAP week, and during the first two weeks of school
- Option for returning to face-to-face instruction: students may return to regular school instruction only at the start of a new grading term (grades PreK-8) or a new semester (grades 9-12), and only on a space-available basis
- Student instruction will follow the state standards for the grade, subject, and/or content area; teachers will follow district pacing guides, where appropriate, and will use and/or make available online resources provided by the district and/or the South Carolina Department of Education as appropriate
- Parents and students will be provided with specific information regarding deadlines, attendance policies, as well as parent/teacher and student/teacher communications prior to the start of virtual/distance learning
- The district will provide meals via school bus delivery to virtual/distance learning students
- Serving Special Population Students: Students with IEP's and/or 504 plans will be provided a Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) per their individual learning plans and needs. Multi-lingual learner, homeless, or migrant students will also be served as appropriate and all additional requirements regarding these students will be met
- **Assessments:** To every extent possible or allowable, students in the virtual learning option will be able to take assessments in that option as well; however, some assessments specific to each student, specific to a subject, or required by the State may require the student to test in a designated, secure location at the school. School staff will work with parents and students to ensure they are provided information and appropriately supported with any/all assessments

- **Counseling and Social and Emotional Learning Services (SEL):** These services will be provided remotely for virtual/distance learning students using Google Meets as appropriate
- Extra-curricular activities and/or Athletics: Students who choose the virtual/distance learning option may participate in extra-curricular or athletic activities—parents must provide transportation to and from the identified school for these activities
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School will work with its higher education partners who provide dual credit instruction to ensure there are clear policies and procedures for full-time virtual/distance learning students in place and being followed
- The district will identify a cadre of substitute virtual/distance learning teachers to call upon if an assigned virtual/distance learning teacher is unavailable for regular instruction.

This plan also serves as the district’s Virtual Learning Contingency Plan in the event that circumstances warrant the need to transition to virtual/distance learning in response to a classroom, grade-level, school-wide, or district-wide event that prevents face-to-face instruction. *Note: Specific board policies relative to virtual/distance learning can be found under Board Policies at <https://www.bamberg1.com/schoolboard>.*

Cleaning Protocols

Schools will follow DHEC, CDC, and OSHA guidelines for cleaning school buildings and school buses. DHEC guidelines are included as part of the AccelerateED Task Force document. CDC and OSHA guidelines will be provided to the schools by the district safety director. School plans address who is responsible for ensuring up-to-date guidance and protocols are being followed and who is responsible for ensuring custodial and/or other designated staff are properly trained to implement the protocols.

Classroom and Facility Configurations

Classrooms and other spaces will be configured to meet SCDE, DHEC, and/or CDC guidelines to the extent possible.

Multi-Tier System of Support

Bamberg School District One provides multi-tiered systems of support for students identified as “at-risk” for developing learning gaps when compared with same-aged peers. These supports include tiered interventions explicitly designed to target academic or behavior deficits identified in the student’s performance data. Each school has processes in place to identify students at risk and processes in place to implement intervention for these students as well as processes for continuing to progress monitor all students currently or previously identified.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with Disabilities will be provided a Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Teachers and other service providers will continue to provide specially designed instruction and/or related services outlined in student’s current IEP or 504 Accommodations Plan. Any adjustments that need to be made regarding the instructional model in place for the student (such as attending the Virtual Program), IEP teams and 504 committees will convene to consider any amendments to special education goals,

services, and accommodations to best meet the needs of the student, with consideration for any health and safety procedures and the instructional setting.

Prevention of Bullying and Harassment

Policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated as needed to address potential new sources of bullying and harassment in schools related to COVID-19. These should include but are not limited to:

- Students who have personally contracted COVID-19 or are related to someone who has contracted it;
- Accusations or taunting of students about alleged exposure to COVID-19;
- Taunting or harassment against students that utilize additional protective measures, such as wearing of masks, avoiding close proximity to others, etc. and;
- Threats by students or others to expose peers or staff to COVID-19, regardless of whether the threat has substance.

Locating and Tracking Students

To account for all students' and to monitor their health and safety, each school will have procedures in place for locating and tracking every student and for maintaining documentation of contacts with students and their families. School and district level personnel including teachers, administrators and other designated staff will locate students and maintain contact with each student during school closures and when students are attending school in the virtual learning option. Documentation of these on-going contacts will be kept by designated school personnel and provided to the district office upon request. When school or district personnel are unable to locate a child after repeated attempts, community agencies including law enforcement and/or the Department of Social Services will be contacted to assist in locating them.

Identifying and Serving Vulnerable Populations

District and school staff including administrators, teachers, nurses, and other designated staff will work together and collaboratively with parents and community agencies (i.e. Department of Social Services, law enforcement, physicians, other schools, etc.) to identify and to provide services and supports to students in vulnerable populations including migrant, homeless, foster care, group homes, and military-connected. Each school will have procedures in place for identifying and supporting these students and their families. Documentation of identification and services/supports will be kept at the schools and

School Supply Lists

Administrators in all schools will review teachers' and classroom supply lists and make appropriate adjustments when necessary to help reduce financial burdens to parents to every extent possible.

Staff Training

Staff training for reopening our schools will include the following:

- New safety protocols and procedures, including the health protocols necessary to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 such as recognizing symptoms and prevention techniques;

- Distance learning;
- Implementation of SCDE guidelines for classroom safety & student/teacher health in the Arts, PE, Media Centers, and CTE instruction (Appendices G-J of AccelerateED document);
- Cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, school buses, etc. to include daily cleaning protocols;
- Diversity/COVID-19 bullying/harassment prevention

Reopening and Continuity of Operations

1. **Preventive Measures:** Bamberg One will communicate to staff, students, and parents the critical need to stay home if they are sick and/or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or if awaiting test results regarding COVID-19. The *DHEC Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools: Management of suspect and confirmed COVID-19 cases* and the *DHEC School Operations COVID-19 Interim Guidance* will be used to assist school/district teams in decisions regarding suspect or confirmed COVID cases.
2. **Masks/Face Coverings:**
Bamberg One will follow any local, county, state, or federal ordinances or laws regarding mandatory face mask usage. In the absence of any of the above, the following will be observed:
 - Face coverings (masks and/or face shield) are required for all employees; Individuals may bring their own face coverings as long as they adhere to current district and school dress codes.
 - All students will wear a face covering/mask while on buses, while entering/exiting buildings, during transition times. When inside their classroom(s), masks can be removed at teacher directions when social distancing measures allow for their removal.
 - Employees whose roles require additional PPE (ex. Eye protection, gloves, etc.) based on their job duties will have those items provided to them
 - Signs and floor markings will be posted throughout school buildings to promote safe practices and social distancing
 - Sneeze guard/Plexiglas dividers will be installed/used in appropriate locations and situations.
3. **Reporting Protocol:** Suspected cases are to be reported to the school nurse and principal. The principal will then report to the district lead nurse, who will follow DHEC reporting guidelines. In the case of athletics, the athletic director will report to the appropriate principal, who will then report to the district lead nurse for appropriate further action. The superintendent will also be informed of any suspected cases across the district. All appropriate confidentiality policies and procedures will be adhered to during the reporting process. Reference Appendices B and E of the AccelerateEd Task Force document for further guidance.
 - Staff will be expected to confirm on a daily basis that they are not experiencing COVID-19 systems prior to entering the workspace
 - Daily age-appropriate screening procedures for students will be conducted at school entryways for non-bus riders

- Bus riders will be screened prior to getting on the school bus; the district Transportation Director will provide parents of bus riders with specific instructions regarding daily screenings and bus stop social distancing recommendations

Plan for Staff/Class Coverage Due to Quarantine Periods

Administrative staff who are quarantined but are well enough to work may have the option to work remotely if their work can be adapted for such; staff who are quarantined but are ill will not be required to work--appropriate district sick leave policies will be observed. School administrators will secure substitutes for teachers who are quarantined or unable to work.

Substitutes

Schools will have procedures in place for training substitutes at the school level. When called upon for work, Substitute teachers will be asked the appropriate health screening questions prior to the start of work. Reporting procedures, health screenings, cleaning protocols, and other relevant policies and procedures related to COVID-19 or other situations (ex. Flu outbreak) will be covered during the annual required substitute training

Staff Meetings

District and school-level staff meetings should be conducted virtually to the extent possible if they exceed state/federal guidance for recommended group size. Social distancing will be done for all in-person meetings.

Signage

School plans will address building signage regarding entry/exit; hallway use directions, health screening questions and/or any other signage that is needed.

Building Usage/Rental by Non-District Individuals/Groups

Bamberg District One will maintain safe and controlled access to buildings, and will prioritize cleaning and disinfecting. Community use of school buildings will be limited to programs providing direct support to the district or its students. Any community-use participants must comply with the same health and safety guidelines established for the district and/or the schools.

Visitors

Each school will include procedures for visitors in their individual school plans. Visitors to schools and to district offices are restricted to designated spaces/areas for this purpose.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Bamberg One will follow guidelines from the South Carolina High School League for all athletic activities and events. In addition, all staff and students will be required to wear face coverings and to practice social distancing to every extent possible during these activities.

Music/Band Classes and Activities

Bamberg One will implement safety guidelines outlined by the various state and national arts organizations, as well as those referenced in the AccelerateED guidance document. These guidelines provide specific safety information for a variety of teaching scenarios in band, general music, visual art and other related arts instruction.

Food/Meal Service

Students may participate in the school meal program or bring their meals from home in a lunchbox. Students will be allowed to use/bring water bottles. Delivery of meals from outside vendors or persons is prohibited. Schools will determine breakfast and lunch service in consultation with the Food Services Director; these will be included in individual school plans and parents will be notified regarding how meal service will be conducted at schools. The Food Service Director will follow all USDA rules and guidelines regarding food service/meals for 2020-2021 school year.

Transportation

Bamberg One will adhere to South Carolina Department of Education guidance regarding bus capacity. Bus drivers, bus aides, and students will wear masks on buses.

Contacts for Assistance and Additional Information

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