



**SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON
INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN
Revised August 16, 2021**

BRCS has continued to work around the clock in order to prepare for our students' return to school in the safest, most engaging environment possible. Our motto for the 21-22 school year will be "We are Resilient." Starting last year, our country found itself navigating the challenging course set upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen our schools and businesses shut down, and many have been fearful of what the future holds. Here at Brazos River Charter School, we want to learn from the past, look forward to the future, and most importantly - engage ourselves in the activities of TODAY, by being resilient agents of the changes we are facing. Please join us in rising to the challenge of encouraging rather than discouraging – building rather than destroying; Join us at BRCS, as we make the most of today, so that we can be better tomorrow.

BRCS has already taken many steps forward in building the capacity for our mission thus far. BRCS's actions towards the success of our mission include:

- 1) Concerted effort by staff to create a plan that allows for the success of every student, including the assessment of any lost learning in the spring of 2021 and adjusted curriculum to address those losses.

- 2) The acquisition of a quality learning platform that maintains the necessary rigor for student learning and growth if remote learning becomes necessary at any point during the school year

- 3) The addition of new technology to better meet our students' needs,





A Message from Brazos River Charter School

Brazos River Charter School is committed to the safe reopening of facilities and learning for the 2021-2022 school year. **To be clear, our goal is to offer face-to-face instruction beginning on August 16, 2021.** We have, however, prepared other contingencies should we experience attendance fluctuations and/or a resurgence of COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 school year. Last spring, in response to the unprecedented worldwide pandemic caused by COVID-19, teachers across the state of Texas had to very quickly change the way students were taught. BRCS staff provided parents with at-home remote learning resources, to include daily learning activities tailored to the needs of individual students. This year however, we will **not** be offering the online learning option unless a student tests positive for Covid-19, or has been exposed and is showing symptoms. We will continue to follow the guidelines of the Texas Education Agency and the state regarding Covid-19.

Our plans are subject to change as public health guidelines are updated and feedback from stakeholders is collected. There will be situations that may require temporary suspension of face-to-face instruction due to positive COVID-19 cases in schools. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with a lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus. Parents, staff and students will be prepared for this if it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices.

Guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA)

Commissioner Mike Morath of the Texas Education Agency has provided school districts with guidance in the following areas:

Attendance and Enrollment

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-2022 school year.





General Health & Safety Protocols

- Campus staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols. Masks are not required. Students/staff may choose to wear masks.

- On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems must provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.

- Disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning campuses.
- Students, teachers, staff and essential campus visitors/volunteers will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Social distancing and safety signage will be added and visible throughout school facilities.
- BRCS is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet any of the criteria for re-entry to the campus.
 - Non-essential visitors will be limited, and it is highly suggested that anyone wishing to visit is cleared prior to coming into the building. They are also to subject themselves to all health-screening measures.
 - Examples of Essential Visitors Include
 - Outside support personnel
 - Individuals for ARD Meetings (will receive a specific invitation

Health Pre-Screening for Staff & Students

- Students and staff are expected to take their own temperatures daily before arriving at school. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher should not come to school.
- Students and staff should also prescreen themselves for any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school:





- * Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- * **New**, uncontrolled cough that causes different breathing (or for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in the cough from baseline)
- * Sore throat
- * Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or **new** onset of headache, especially with fever

- Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.
- Campuses will have access to a touch-free forehead thermometer to check/verify temperatures throughout the day. Anyone with a 100.4 or higher temperature will need to leave school.
- Staff will be required to notify their immediate supervisor if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

Arriving at School

- Students arriving at school are encouraged to social distance and spread out in larger common spaces (pre-designated by the campus) and during transitions to and from class.
- BRCS will plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large group gatherings of students and/or adults.

School Health Procedures

- The attendance clerk will be trained to ask questions to screen students/staff who are absent for COVID- 19 symptoms as well as essential campus visitors.
- The school office area will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Protocols for Individuals with COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 commonly referred to as COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school under 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7.

A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of



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having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

If symptomatic, exclude until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved. Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

For a complete list of all disease requiring exclusion from school and the readmission criteria, please visit [DSHS School Health Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in a Group-Care Setting](#).

Individuals - including students, teachers, staff or other campus visitors/volunteers - who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, and is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms, should stay at home until seen by a physician or tested.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Masks

Masks are not required and are optional.

Hand washing & Hand Sanitizers

- Students and staff will be trained in proper hand washing protocols to prevent COVID-19 and the spread of germs.
- Hand washing stations are available in restrooms and sanitizer will be readily available in all classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be added in common areas.

Social Distancing Protocols

- Students and staff will be trained in proper social distancing.
- Social Distance becomes a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or



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coming to the campus.

- Whenever possible throughout the day, students and staff will remain six feet apart.
- NOTE: It isn't realistic that staff and students always maintain six-feet social distancing, especially in classrooms.

Cleaning & Disinfectant Protocols

- BRCS students and staff will be trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur each day after school in every classroom, commons area and on high-touch surfaces.
- The state recommends that each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
- Restrooms will undergo extensive cleaning after each day's use.

Face to Face Instruction

- BRCS begins face-to-face instruction on the first day of school for students, August 16, 2021.
- The safety protocols and social distancing listed above will be implemented as recommended for at- school learning.
- BRCS will consider the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Somervell County Health officials' guidelines for face-to-face Instruction. NOTE: TEA could change guidelines at any point in time based upon CDC guidelines.

Attendance and Enrollment

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90 percent of a course in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-2022 school year.
- School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic using a document





published by TEA.

Special Education

- Special education staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Instruction - Students who receive mainstream instruction, in class support, or co-teach instruction will continue to participate in the general education curriculum with their individualized accommodations/modifications being implemented by the special education teacher. Students receiving resource instruction will receive tasks and support that are explicitly designed to meet their IEP goals. This will occur in the appropriate setting as designated by their IEP. These settings will be sanitized consistently between groups.
- Student devices will be sent home with students should school closure become a necessity.
- All staff, including special education staff will receive training on remote methods of service delivery.

Special Education Remote Learning

IEP/ARD meetings will be held to determine appropriate related service instruction delivery for students.

Technology Support

- All students will have access to a district-issued personal device for face-to-face learning. Certain district policies and procedures will be required with the use of these devices. Detailed policies and procedures regarding the use of technology are located in the "Technology Use Agreement" in enrollment packets. The user agreements are signed by parents and students upon enrollment and kept in the cumulative student files.

Social-Emotional Support/Mental Wellness

- Campus counselor will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Campus counselor will continue to utilize a referral system for individuals who need targeted support.



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Communication

- BRCS will continue to inform key stakeholders regularly, while offering opportunities for feedback to help shape the continued development of daily operations to best serve its students, families, and staff members.

