

Back-to-Buildings FAQ (Jan 2021)

Overview of the four elementary learning pathways (*effective 1/2021*)

- 1) **Hybrid:** Students will attend school in-person (Face-to-Face Learning) 2 days each week. Additional asynchronous lessons/learning to be completed at home online.
 - Group A: Monday / Tuesday
 - Group B: Thursday/Friday
 - Wednesday - Connected Learning for A & B

**This model has changed from the previously announced half-day model (please see explanation below).*

- 2) **Connected Learning:** Students will continue with 100% Connected Learning online as all students have been doing since school started on September 2. Please note: while our goal is to provide as much consistency as possible for students, the elementary Connected Learning schedule may change, and students may be assigned to a different classroom teacher.
- 3) **Flexible Learning:** This is a virtual model that is flexible for a family's schedule with access to a Bremerton School District teacher for support, tutoring and connection.
- 4) **Home Link:** Home Link is the District's parent partnership program for families who homeschool their children. For more information, please visit www.BremertonSchools.org/HomeLink.

Why did the District switch from the previously-announced half-day AM/PM model to this AA/BB model?

While there are many benefits to the half-day model, based on the updated guidance from the governor and OSPI, and staffing and transportation limitations, this model is no longer sustainable - or scalable - as we work on plans to bring back all grade levels to the classroom this spring.

Why will students only attend in-person two days per week?

The majority of our classrooms are not able to accommodate full classes of students with the requirement for six feet of social distancing when students are seated. Across our district, the average number of students that will fit into a room is between 12-18. Even if we ran classes with 18 students, to accommodate all students at that ratio would require the hiring of 40+ new teachers – not only do we not have the budget to support a \$5-6 million increase in expenses, we do not have physical classroom space to house 40 new classrooms of students. We also need to ensure safety and hygiene between different groups of students accessing



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instructional spaces. This means we must run much smaller class groups, which means each student will only attend 2 days of the week.

Will I get to choose which group my student is in when we return to school with Hybrid Learning? Will my kids be in the same group?

Due to the complexity of scheduling and the need to “cohort” students for health and safety, at this time we do not anticipate being able to honor requests from families for their preferred group (A or B). We will make every effort to ensure that siblings are placed in the same A or B group. Schools will be notifying families of their child’s group assignment once we have collected this important information from our families.

We will make every effort to ensure that siblings are placed in the same A or B group across K-12. Our goal is to provide as much consistency as possible for students.

Can I change my student’s pathway now?

Students will be included in the pathway selected by parents in the fall. A change of your child’s learning pathway is dependent on space available and as such the ability to switch learning models cannot be guaranteed at this time. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s pathway, please contact your school’s principal.

Students who did not select a learning pathway in the fall have been enrolled in Hybrid Learning.

When will other grades return to school?

We will closely monitor our health and safety protocols as our youngest students and special education students return, and we will continue to assess our readiness to safely expand in-person instruction to our upper elementary and secondary grades. We will continue to work with state and local health officials, as well as our school board and associations, on our reentry plans, and will share more information with you in the coming weeks.

If my child goes back to school and gets sick, can he do his current online classes during an illness so as to avoid falling behind or receiving an absence?

We will work with all students who are ill or quarantined due to possible COVID exposure to ensure they can continue learning and keep up with classwork.



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Will the District be providing bus transportation?

Bus transportation will be provided for both Group A and Group B. Families are encouraged to consider alternate forms of transportation, including walking, biking or being driven by caregivers as much as possible. Some bus routes may be combined. Updates to bus routes will be communicated by January 19.

IMPORTANT: Bus transport is the exception to the 6-foot rule of physical distancing. Bus riders will not be screened until arriving at school; it's imperative that parents not send students on the bus if they will not be able to pass the screening or have an elevated temperature.

Will the District be providing meals to all students?

Yes. Details about meals for students in the hybrid pathway, and any changes to our school meal program will be communicated as soon as details are finalized.

Where can I get more information?

We will be distributing an updated elementary Back-to-Building Plan on Wednesday, January 13.

To view our COVID-19 Health & Safety plan and other COVID operations plans, please visit bremertonschools.org/COVID-19.

We will continue to provide updates and information as we move forward on our Back-to-Buildings plan. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.