



# BETHEL LOCAL SCHOOLS

## Reopening FAQ Sheet

### **Q: What is the deadline for parents to decide on option C-online?**

A: For students and families to participate in Option C, the deadline to opt-in for this program is **August 7, 2020**. This is located on page 3 of the reopening plan. A Google Document was placed on our district website on July 27, 2020 for those that intend to register. For additional information on Option C, please refer to the [reopening plan on our district website](#).

### **Q: How does Option C work with children who have IEPs and support services?**

A: Students with on IEP's and/or those who need additional support services will be linked to their current Intervention Specialist Teacher (IST) here at BLS. The Intervention Specialist will provide necessary accommodations and modifications your child needs. The IST will continuously make sure all services and support needed are in place. Your child's IST will remain in contact with you on a regular basis and will continue with regular meetings. We will ensure continued support for your child.

### **Q: If there is a positive case in the classroom and exposed kids are made to quarantine at home, will you require testing of those children before their return to school? Or even if quarantined, will testing be a requirement for children in any circumstance in order to attend in person learning?**

A: In our reopening plan on page 5 (Returning to School After Illness and Communications when a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19) it provides the details in regards to quarantine and a return to school. This will be determined by the Miami County Health Department in conjunction with the school district. For more details on how this will be handled, please [click here](#) to refer to the reopening plan that is located on our district website.

### **Q: Will face coverings or masks be provided to students?**

A: The district will provide a supply of reserves in the offices, in the clinic and on school buses. This supply will be for students that forget or misplace their mask. Families will need to provide their own face covering at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.



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**Q: Where can we learn more about the ESC? What is the name of the online academy from the ESC and the requirements, classes and if there is flexibility in hours the kids can work from home?**

A: Educational Service Centers (ESCs) were established in 1914 through an act of the Ohio General Assembly. The law created 88 County Boards of Education and charged them with the task of regulatory authority over school district budgets, personnel and curriculum. The role of the county offices of education evolved and expanded over the next several decades. In the 1930's, they began assisting districts with fiscal and purchasing services; later in the 1960's, their responsibilities expanded again as they began operating special education programs and increased professional development and technical assistance for schools.

By 1995, County Boards were renamed them "Educational Service Centers" – a statutory name change intended to reflect the evolving nature of ESC programs and services. The law also encouraged county offices to merge into regional agencies.

To learn more about the Miami County ESC, you can find it at:

**<https://www.miami.k12.oh.us/>**

The Miami County ESC has partnered with Schools PLP and Bethel Local School district to offer students an individualized learning experience. Students in grades K-5 will most likely spend a minimum of 3 hours a day on coursework. Students in grades 6-12 should plan on spending 5-7 hours per day on their online course. Students will experience a combination of online and printed materials. Students' progress will be monitored by a Miami County ESC and Bethel Staff member, but all teaching will be done electronically by the online curriculum platform and not by Bethel teachers. Bethel teachers will have the option to work with the Miami County ESC to ensure the online coursework aligns with what is being taught in the classroom. A teacher of record will be assigned for progress monitoring.

Students with disabilities will remain connected to the Intervention Specialist at Bethel Local Schools. The Bethel Intervention Specialist will have access to the case, the IEP and the services being provided. Our Intervention Specialist will review the IEPs for each individual student and will build in the necessary accommodations.

The parents will have access to the Parent Dashboard with Schools PLP. This will allow them to check student work, hours worked and activities participated in.



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**Q: How will extra-curricular and co-curricular activities be handled with Option C and distance learning?**

A: Students will remain a student at Bethel Local Schools and will have the opportunity to participate in all co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Students that will want to continue with such activities as band, choir and athletics will be allowed to do so. The families will be responsible for transporting their children to campus for class and/or practices and competitions. Families that choose to participate in Option C will need to communicate with their building principal to inform them if they intend to still continue with the co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activity for the 2020-21 school year.

**Q: How will Physical Education be handled with Option C and distance learning?**

A: Students can choose to participate in Physical Education on campus if they choose. Students that choose Option C will not be required to take Physical Education unless they are an 11th or 12th grade student and need it for graduation. In that case, the district can look at an online option for PE or the PE waiver if they are involved in band and/or athletics. Families will need to communicate with their building principal in regards to needing Physical Education if they are a 11th or 12th grade student and still need the necessary credit for graduation.

**Q: How will school fees be adjusted if you are enrolled in Option C?**

A: Students have not yet paid school fees. If they choose to enroll in Option C and have already paid school fees, we will reimburse them based on the length they are enrolled. For example, if a family enrolls in Option C for the first semester, they will be reimbursed 50% of the fees paid. If they enroll in a full year, they will be reimbursed a full 100% of the fees paid.

**Q: How will the district handle contact tracing and responsible distancing**

A: The Miami County Health Department will handle all potential contact tracing for all of the districts in the county. In addition, they are working closely with all districts to provide guidance on responsible distancing. In addition, all students and staff will be required to have a face covering on when six feet of distancing cannot be maintained.



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**Q: Will there be open house? How will it be handled? Will 6th graders and new students have orientation?**

A: For the 2020-2021 school year, Bethel Local Schools has cancelled all open houses. We believe this is in the best interest for the safety and security of our students, staff and family members due to the high participation numbers we receive with these programs. **Bethel Local Schools will be hosting new student and sixth grade orientations. Building principals will be sharing those details soon.**

**Q: The reopen plan indicated that secondary students (6-12) will be allowed to carry backpacks throughout the day to minimize locker use. Will they be allowed to use wheeled backpacks/book bags?**

A: Although lockers will be assigned to the students, we are trying to limit the amount of traffic in the hallways and maintain social distancing expectations during class changes. With that being said, wheeled backpacks will not be permitted at Bethel Local Schools. We will ask that students utilize a traditional backpack as they travel from class to class.

**Q: How will Quest be handled for the upcoming school year for students that are identified as Gifted and Talented?**

A: Similar to our Special Education Services, our Quest students will be receiving support and services from our Gifted and Talented instructor. This will be accomplished through Google Classroom for those students that choose to receive services through distance learning.

**Q: Some of the other county schools are providing a 'Hybrid' option for students to attend school a few days of the week and the other days at home. Is Bethel Local Schools considering something similar?**

A: At this time, Bethel Local Schools is considering all options. We have had discussions on this very same topic and will continue to discuss it. At this time, Bethel is offering a traditional schooling option and a distance learning option. If guidance from the local health department and/or the State of Ohio changes, we will have a plan in place to adjust and adapt to what is provided to the district.