



BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Richard W. Fry

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

45 Mount Rock Road

Newville, PA 17241-9466

717-776-2412

Dear Big Spring School Community:

I hope you are doing well and staying cool as we work our way through a very unique summer. Our team has put together a “**Staying Open Plan**” to provide an update regarding our planning for the reopening of schools. What you will find within this plan that is now posted on our website is an overview of our instructional delivery model and summary of our health and safety measures. Many more details are contained in our Health and Safety Plan as well and we will continue to update you on these processes as we work toward the opening of school. These plans are quite fluid as they reflect best practice and guidelines from a multitude of sources that continue to grow and adjust almost daily.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families are our top priority throughout our work and informs all our decision-making. The challenge we are facing is a community health challenge and it needs to be addressed with frameworks that reflect how schooling can affect that community health. The plan to date reflects the tireless efforts of our Pandemic Response Team, comprised of administrators, teachers, nurses, support staff, and informed by guidance from a community physician as well as our solicitor. Feedback from community ThoughtExchanges and staff ThoughtExchanges are incorporated into our plan as is research from educational, medical, and governmental entities from a state, national and global scale.

I need to reiterate my commitment to ensuring that our work as a school system and learning organization supports a “Staying Open Plan”. Our goal is to provide face-to-face instruction for all of our families that desire it and to ensure that sort of instruction is available well into the future. To meet that goal, we must start school in the instructional delivery model that provides us the best chance to stay open and remain open within that face-to-face mode for the entire year. As such we need to adapt as conditions warrant. This school year will begin in a hybrid model that I have referred to as Tier 2 in several prior communications. Within Tier 2, all grade levels will attend school in a hybrid format with a blend of face-to-face instruction and remote learning, with the exception of kindergarten and some specific students with documented special needs. The decision to start in Tier 2 is based on the current level of viral spread within our region coupled with our ability to balance social distancing expectations, bussing protocols and support of specific protocols within each of our buildings. Being a school district of 200 square miles provides us with some distinct challenges during a pandemic and our phased approach to opening allows us to get our students back in our buildings while working toward the capacity to in time move to Tier 3 (full face-to-face instruction) for all families that make that choice.

Now that our tiered opening is designated, families will be asked to choose what delivery model they feel best meets their needs. The key term embedded throughout our entire delivery model is choice. Do families want face-to-face, livestreaming, or the district provided full cyber option? Within this document we will describe each of those choices so that families can make the best decision for their learners. Obviously, much can happen over the next six weeks so our plans remain fluid and flexible. We will consistently revise and grow our plans based on our communities needs while focusing on the health and safety of all involved.

Providing for the safest schooling environment for our children during a pandemic requires a commitment from all involved. We, as a school district, take this responsibility quite seriously and understand the impact that it has on all families.

As always we welcome your feedback and appreciate your trust and support during these trying times. The table below provides information regarding key dates, resources, and opportunities to engage in Zoom sessions to acquire more information and or ask questions. As a Bulldog Family, we will grow from these challenges and better ourselves in the process.

Ever Always Strong,

Dr. Richard W. Fry
Superintendent of Schools

Action Step	Date
<p>Communication to Families Regarding 2020-2021 Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters (all students and kindergarten specific) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail, email, posted to website • Blackboard Connect • <u>Reopening Information Sessions – Families (Zoom): Access it at www.bigspringsd.org/bulldogsreturn</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/3: 6:00-7:00PM • 8/4: 8:30-9:30AM • 8/6: 12:30-1:30PM • <u>BSSD Cyber Information Session: Friday from 12-1:00PM – Register at www.bigspringsd.org/bssdcyber</u> 	Now – Start of School
<p>Dedicated Webpage Channel for “2020-2021 Key Information”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Key Dates / Timeline • Information Sessions • Tier 2 Structure • Health and Safety Plans • Staying Open Plan • Options for Families 	July 28
<p>Opening of Back to School Gateway to Request Information From Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desired Mode of Student Attendance (Face-to-Face, Virtual, Cyber) • Interest in Utilizing District Transportation • <u>Launch of process and directions will be communicated via Blackboard Connect on August 3rd</u> 	August 3 – 7
<p>Student A/B Designations – Available for parent view in Aspen</p>	Week of August 10 th
<p>Class Lists / Schedules</p>	Week of August 17 th
<p>Transportation Plans Communicated</p>	Week of August 24
<p>Student First Day</p>	September 8 th