



BUHSD 2020-21 LEARNING MODALITY PLAN

The Buckeye Union High School District recognizes that the 2020-21 school year is unique with the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governing Board and the District have the responsibility of continuing the educational process for students while keeping everyone reasonably safe. This is a complex task that has to take into consideration the physical and mental safety of students, staff, and the community as a whole, the ability to offer quality educational opportunities, and the resources available to do so. The overall goal of the District is to provide all students opportunities to learn and progress academically until schools can fully reopen with the traditional modality to which most are accustomed.

BUHSD began the school year with students having the choice between Distance Learning (Option A) and Online Learning through Edgenuity (Option B) as the modalities for learning when the Health Department School Re-opening Dashboard put the District's overall risk level as *Substantial* and the recommended learning scenario as *Distance Learning*. Starting August 17th, On-Site Support opened as an option for any students who were unable to participate in Distance Learning from home. In September, as the metrics showed improvement on the dashboard, students receiving specialized instruction through Individual Education Plans or English Language Acquisition services were offered the opportunity to return to campus for such services where numbers could be controlled and mitigation strategies could be employed.

With the October 1st Dashboard posting, the District's overall risk level was downgraded to *Moderate* with the recommended learning scenario changing to *Hybrid with On-Site Support*. With this, students who were participating in Distance Learning were given the option to move to Hybrid Learning; coming to campus for in-person instruction twice per week and staying Distance Learning the other three days. With only half of the student body on campus a day, physical distancing in the classroom is possible; which is an important part of the mitigation plan being employed at this time.

The District currently has an overall risk level of *Moderate* with the recommended learning scenario being *Hybrid with On-Site Support*. If this remains the case, the District will continue with the current options for students through fall semester: Hybrid 2-Days per Week, Distance Learning, or Online through Edgenuity.

As we move into spring semester, students (with guidance from their parents) again need to make a choice. Option A is to remain with the Hybrid Learning or Distance Learning option to begin spring semester. Option B is to participate in Online Learning through Edgenuity for the entire spring semester. Students will need to make this declaration in late November/early December in order for schools to make the needed adjustments to individual student schedules and the school's overall master schedule in time for the start of spring semester on January 4, 2021. A survey will be sent to the parents where you will select the learning modality for your student for spring semester.

As we move forward through the school year, adjustments will be made to the learning modalities available for students choosing Option A. The ultimate goal of the District is to bring all students back on campus in the traditional modality with in-person instruction five days per week, but this can only be done when the metrics indicate that it is safe to do so. The Governing Board and the District will not take steps to further open up schools while the metrics are indicating that community spread is increasing.

With the metrics as they currently stand, Distance Learning and Hybrid Learning with two days per week in-person are in place. If the metrics were to move in the direction of community spread increasing to the point where the overall risk level were elevated to *Substantial*, if there were to be outbreaks within our schools, if it were recommended specifically by the Health Department, or if we were unable to properly staff our schools due to illness or quarantining, the Governing Board and the District would have to consider returning all students to Distance Learning. This is not a preferred option and will only be done if deemed necessary to ensure the safety of students, staff, and/or the community.

As the metrics improve through the year, our next step is, while remaining with Hybrid Learning, to bring students who need specialized instruction or identified interventions back on campus for in-person instruction four days per week and Distance Learning only one day per week. During this, a majority of students remain with two days of in-person instruction and three days of Distance Learning. This increase will be offered to students in specialized populations and identified needs only when such increase does not compromise physical distancing in classrooms.

As the metrics continue to improve, Hybrid Learning will increase to four days per week in-person learning and only one day Distance Learning for all students who choose to come in person. At such time, with more students on campus, physical distancing will no longer be possible in classrooms. Other mitigation strategies (such as wearing cloth face coverings, increased hand sanitation and/or washing, etc.) will continue to be enforced to minimize any community spread.

As the metrics move closer to an overall risk level of *Minimal*, the Governing Board and the District will make a decision on when to bring all Option A students back to campus for in-person instruction five days per week. At such time, although physical distancing will no longer be possible in classrooms, other mitigation strategies (such as wearing cloth face coverings, increased hand sanitation and/or washing, etc.) may continue to be enforced to minimize any community spread.

BUHSD wants to provide a safe learning environment for all students and options for students whenever possible on the learning modalities which work best for the individual. As we have done thus far this year, the Governing Board and District will continue to monitor data and move through the continuum of learning modalities in a manner to keep students and staff safe.