



## **Benton Harbor Charter School Academy Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan**

Address of School District: 455 Riverview Dr., Benton Harbor MI, 49022

District Code Number: 11903

Building Code Number(s): 08706

District Contact Person: Laura Moellering

District Contact Person Email Address: [lauramoellering@choiceschools.com](mailto:lauramoellering@choiceschools.com)

Local Public Health Department: Berrien County

Local Public Health Department Contact Person Email Address: [nbritten@bchdmi.org](mailto:nbritten@bchdmi.org)

Name of Intermediate School District: Berrien RESA

Name of Authorizing Body: Ferris State University

Date of Adoption by Board of Directors: September 15, 2020 (anticipated)

## Assurances

- The Academy will administer an approved benchmark assessment, or local benchmark assessment, or any combination thereof, to all pupils in grades K to 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Within thirty days after the approval of its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, and every 30 days thereafter, the Academy, at a meeting of its board of directors, will re-confirm how instruction is delivered during the 2020-2021 school year and will solicit public comment, at a public meeting, from the parents or legal guardians enrolled in the Academy.
- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or courses in the same scope and sequence as the Academy had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.
- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.
- The Academy will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.
- The Academy, in consultation with a local health department, and district employees, will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2020-2021 school year that are based on local data that are based on key metrics. A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the Academy Board's discretion. Key metrics that the Academy will consider shall include at least all of the following:
  - COVID-19 Cases or Positive COVID-19 tests
  - Hospitalizations due to COVID-19
  - Number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
  - COVID-19 cases for each day for each 1 million individuals
  - The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
  - Health capacity strength
  - Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19
- If the Academy determines that it is safe to provide in-person pupil instruction to pupils, the Academy will prioritize providing in-person pupil instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the Academy.
- The Academy will ensure that two (2), 2-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the Academy and the pupil's teacher or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the Academy. The Academy will



**BENTON  
HARBOR**  
CHARTER  
SCHOOL  
ACADEMY

455 Riverview Drive | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | 269.925.3807

[www.bentonharborcharter.com](http://www.bentonharborcharter.com)

publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each Academy Board meeting where it re-confirm how instruction is being delivered , beginning 30 days after approval of its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, and every 30 days thereafter. The Academy will make those rates available through the transparency reporting link located on the Academy website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

- The Academy will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the Academy's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan not later than February 1, 2021, for goals its expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year and not later than the last day of school of the 2020-2021 school year for goals the Academy expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.

  
President of the Board of Directors

---

Date 9-15-20



## **Introduction and Overview**

When in the course of a pandemic, it becomes clear that student and family health and safety supersedes our traditional means of education, we must learn how to guarantee those while maintaining student learning. Therefore, extending our learning plan with a focus on engagement and achievement and applying all that we learned during the spring shut down, is a necessity for the 2020-21 school year. After numerous surveys of families and staff and consultation with the Board of Directors, it was determined to start the 2020-21 school year with 100% learning remotely.

## **Educational Goals**

We will use our contractual goals as outlined by Ferris State University and that meet the requirements of House Bill 5913.

On the Spring NWEA, 80% of students will be at or above the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile based on grade level national norms (achievement) OR the schoolwide median conditional growth percentile will be above the 50th percentile. These goals will be reviewed and shared after the Fall 9-week testing window, through a February 1 progress report, and at the end of the 2020/2021 school year and will be available through a transparency reporting link located on the Academy's website. The NWEA assessment provides a nationally normed mean achievement and growth percentile which were recently updated in the summer of 2020.

K-8 learners will be tested using NWEA in Fall, Winter, and Spring; the Academy has used this assessment for numerous years and therefore is able to identify students who may have had larger than expected learning loss over pandemic learning and can respond in kind.

The Academy's instructional and administration team can utilize the data to impact instruction immediately after finishing the assessment as well as use it to guide and support school improvement goals. Students in grades K-8 will participate in this assessment and complete the Math and Reading assessments.

## **Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content**

The Academy's is providing instruction to students 100% remotely, until at least November 6, 2020. They are using numerous applications to facilitate this instruction, such as Seesaw, Google Classroom, and Nearpod. Instruction is provided both live, where all students are expected to log into their classroom, which helps to maintain classroom community and a connection to the school and their peers, and students may access pre-recorded lessons.

The Academy did extensive training over the summer to improve teacher's skills at online learning and invested in products and the digital tools available through their adopted curriculums. In addition to the NWEA assessment, checkpoint assessments that are aligned with grade level standards will be administered to document student progress toward grade level goals and to determine interventions or enhancements. Teachers have pacing guides and work in teams on grade levels, as well as with the instructional coaches, to make sure that all students are provided with challenging and engaging content.

In addition to parents and families being able to access their child's progress and work completion through the web applications, parents will receive progress reports and report cards and be invited to virtual parent teacher conferences. Parents will also be informed about their child's NWEA scores in ways that help them understand where their child is with regard to grade level achievement and how they can support their child at home.

Virtual parent orientations to learn about the applications their students would be working with and how to access them, as well as a virtual learners guide have been created and shared. Student attendance is closely monitored and teachers and aides reach out immediately if expected contact is missed without prior notification.

## **Equitable Access**

All students have been, or will soon be, issued devices to participate in remote learning. Families needing Internet access are being provided with the resources to do so.

The Academy will provide special education programs and services according to the student's IEP or Section 504. If the offer of a FAPE or Section 504 cannot be fully implemented, a Contingency Learning Plan (CLP) will be developed with parent input. Students that require specialized instruction and accommodations will have their needs met according to their IEP. Programs and services will be offered virtually if a student has chosen the online learning environment; however, some students may choose times to be in-person to receive interventions that are best delivered in-person. Digital assessments have been purchased to evaluate virtually if needed. Our online teaching team is aware of accommodations that are needed for students and will be compliant in providing those. The special education team will be monitoring students' abilities to determine if recovery services are needed.