

Re-opening, Moving Forward



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East Bay Innovation Academy
Oakland, CA

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear EBIA families,

EBIA is Moving Forward -- accepting what we can't change, adapting to the crisis, and building on innovation to protect, nurture and challenge our students to grow as we learn to fight this pandemic. Although in-person instruction remains as the goal, we recognize the extremely high and evolving stakes of the current public health threat and commit to improving our distance learning program, as it will continue to be a part of the upcoming school year. To the extent safely possible, we will also be making strategic use of the campuses, maximizing use of outside space, with strict safeguards in place that are in alignment with local public health guidelines.

Per California Governor Newsom's July 17th guidance, EBIA will start the year in distance learning. In lieu of our typical start with a week of minimum days for orientation, we are planning a longer orientation (2-3 weeks) to build a solid foundation for a year of teaching and learning in crisis. Specifically, our goals for orientation are COVID awareness and protocol, welcoming new students, tech training, assessments, course/advisory introduction, and community-building.

After orientation, our instructional model will build on distance learning and our ability to phase-in campus use will depend on regional COVID trends and program considerations. When safely and programmatically possible, we plan to invite students on campus in the following equity-driven priority for in-person meetings:

- o Targeted support for students with specialized needs (including EL, IEP)
- o Advisory/SEL meetings
- o Academic instruction (i.e., lab sciences, art, and small bubble cohorts)

In all cases, we recognize that some families will choose to engage 100% virtually, based on their family-determination of risk. Our models will be structured to provide that option even in scenarios where students are invited back to campus.

Finally, we are exploring the feasibility of welcoming a small group of students on site to complete the remote portion of their hybrid schedule while social distancing on campus under supervision, within safety, staffing and resource constraints. Our ability to offer this option will depend again on regional COVID trends and equity-driven priority will be applied to children of essential workers, students in need of credit recovery/academic support, and requests (pending space).

We wished and hoped that we would be in a different place in our collective fight against this pandemic, after our Shelter-In-Place in spring. But we will accept the current public health/economic/educational conditions and move forward to provide stability, support and growth to our students and families, with safety as our highest priority.

In service,

Michelle S. Cho



EBIA Priorities and Guiding Principles

EBIA is a small Local Education Agency serving grades 6-12, authorized by Oakland Unified School District. Our students come from every zip code in Oakland and beyond, reflecting the racial and socio-economic diversity of Oakland. We lease two facilities (one from OUSD and the other private) in East Oakland, and while they have ample outdoor space, the buildings themselves are outdated. Our re-opening framework takes these parameters into account and embodies the following community-centered priorities.

Health, safety, stability

- Learning curve with safety curriculum and protocol
- Managed transitions according to community risk

EBIA community needs

- Instructional: achievement gaps, learning loss
- Scheduling: diverse needs of families
- Nutrition services

EBIA mission and goals

- Prepare a diverse group of students to be thoughtful, engaged citizens who are leaders and innovators in the 21st century global world

Instructional Models

EBIA’s re-opening framework recognizes that flexibility is required to protect the community and the program as we fight the pandemic. Throughout the year, EBIA will be balancing the educational and public health goals to serve our community, aligned with our priorities. The order of return to campus will be equity-based, to mitigate the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on certain student groups and/or subjects. In addition to the enabling conditions, actual invitation to campus will be subject to program considerations, including staff availability and calendar requirements.

Very High Risk

State/Alameda County Public Health (ACPHD) order to close

- Distance learning

High Risk

COVID cases increasing OR one or more cases at EBIA

- Distance Learning
- Targeted in-person support for students with specialized needs (incl. EL, IEP) 1-2x a week

Medium Risk

COVID cases stable AND no cases at EBIA

- Distance Learning
- Targeted in-person support for students with specialized needs (incl. EL, IEP) 1-2x a week
- 25-50% Advisory/SEL in person 1x a week

Medium-low Risk

COVID cases decreasing AND no cases at EBIA

- Distance Learning
- Targeted in-person support for students with specialized needs (incl. EL, IEP) 1-2x a week
- 25-50% Advisory/SEL in person 1x a week
- 25-50% Academic (A/B and/or lab classes) in person 1-2x a week

Low Risk

Vaccine or cure available

- Full classroom instruction

Distance Learning (Very High Risk)

As long as the State and the Alameda County Public Health Department mandate school closure, EBIA will be in a 100% Distance Learning model. EBIA is building on its initial virtual school model from spring, which already met the distance learning requirements recently released by the State:

- Access to device and connectivity,
- Content aligned to grade-level standards with quality and challenge similar to in-person instruction,
- Academic and other supports for students not performing at grade level or have specific needs,
- IEP services,
- EL services,
- Daily live interaction with certificated staff and peers.

In addition to the requirements, the fall distance learning program at EBIA will pilot research-based practices to increase/maintain engagement, encourage collaboration, and increase/maintain sense of belonging and accountability.

Instruction	Platforms	Schedule	Social-emotional Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distant• Synchronous• Real-time and digital feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Echo• Google docs• Blended learning (various)• Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual

At Upper School, students will attend 3 remote meetings per course per week in Zoom. There is also advisory and time built-in for small group and 1:1 supports. The week begins on Monday with 30 minute sessions of each course, followed by longer blocks, advisory, and office hours Tuesday through Friday.

At Lower School, students begin the week on Monday with SEL lesson in advisory, followed by 45 -minute whole cohort lectures for core subjects. The rest of the week consists of advisory, 2 longer sessions of core subjects (whole cohort and then workshop/small group/independent work time), one elective, and one support group (ELA or math) per day.

HYBRID: Targeted Support (High Risk)

When Alameda County comes off the state monitoring list and the Alameda County Public Health allows schools to open, EBIA will explore the feasibility of transitioning to hybrid models of instruction. When COVID cases are still increasing OR if there is a confirmed COVID case in a household with EBIA staff or student, we will continue with distance learning and add on Targeted Support, as recommended by staff. Targeted supports can address needs of students who are English Language Learners, students with Independent Education Plans (IEPs), and students in need of assessments for services.

The individual or small group support meetings will be scheduled by staff and take place outside as much as feasible, with all COVID safeguard procedures.

Instruction	Platform	Schedule	Social emotional learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distant• Synchronous• Real-time and digital feedback• Targeted in-person support for specialized needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Echo• Google docs• Blended Learning (various)• Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual• By appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual

HYBRID: Advisory/SEL (Medium Risk)

When COVID cases are stable AND if there are no COVID cases in a household with EBIA staff or student, we will explore the feasibility of adding advisory meetings on campus to meet the social and emotional needs of our students. Under current public health guidelines, these meetings would occur in small, stable groups (i.e., half of each advisory, in rotation). The on campus meetings will take place outside as much as feasible, with all COVID safeguard procedures.

Instruction	Platforms	Schedule	Social emotional Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distant• Synchronous• Real-time and digital feedback• Targeted in-person support for specialized needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Echo• Google docs• Blended Learning (various)• Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual (Upper)• Modified (Lower)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual• In-person

Upper school will still utilize the virtual schedule, and the students will have one day per week in the afternoon on-campus. This time will be used for advisory class, 1:1 check-ins with advisor or teachers, and small group support. Academic classes would continue to meet remotely and families could opt out of on-campus time without impacting access to academic classes.

Lower school would move to a modified schedule that would allow students to take turns coming on campus for advisory/SEL, up to two times a week. Classes would be held virtually on three days of the week. On campus days, students would be on campus for part of the day and spend the rest of the day in virtual class and/or independent work time.

HYBRID: Academic (Medium-Low Risk)

When COVID cases are decreasing AND if there are no COVID cases in a household with EBIA staff or student, we will explore the feasibility of adding academics strategically on campus to meet the subject or grade-specific needs. Under current public health guidelines, these meetings would occur in small, stable groups (i.e., half of each section or cohort, in rotation). The on campus meetings will take place with all COVID safeguard procedures.

Instruction	Platform	Schedule	Social emotional Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distant and In-person• Synchronous• Real-time and digital feedback• Targeted in-person support for specialized needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Echo• Google docs• Blended Learning (various)• Zoom• Lab/classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual (Upper)• Modified (Lower)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual• In-person

Classroom Instruction (Low Risk)

When a vaccine or a cure becomes available, we expect state guidance will be to return to classroom. We will return to regular school days (upper: 8:30 am to 3:45 pm; lower: 9 am to 3:30 pm) five days a week.

Instruction	Platform	Schedule	Social emotional Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-person• Real-time and digital feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Echo• Google docs• Blended Learning (various)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular bell schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-person

Extended Learning on Campus

To the extent feasible, EBIA wants to provide a limited number of seats on campus for students to social distance and participate in the distance learning portion of their hybrid schedule, under supervision of certificated and support staff following state and public health guidelines. Once the relevant state/public health guidance is released and facility and staffing conditions are met, we will share more information about the program and how to sign up. Our plan is to utilize outdoor space as much as possible.

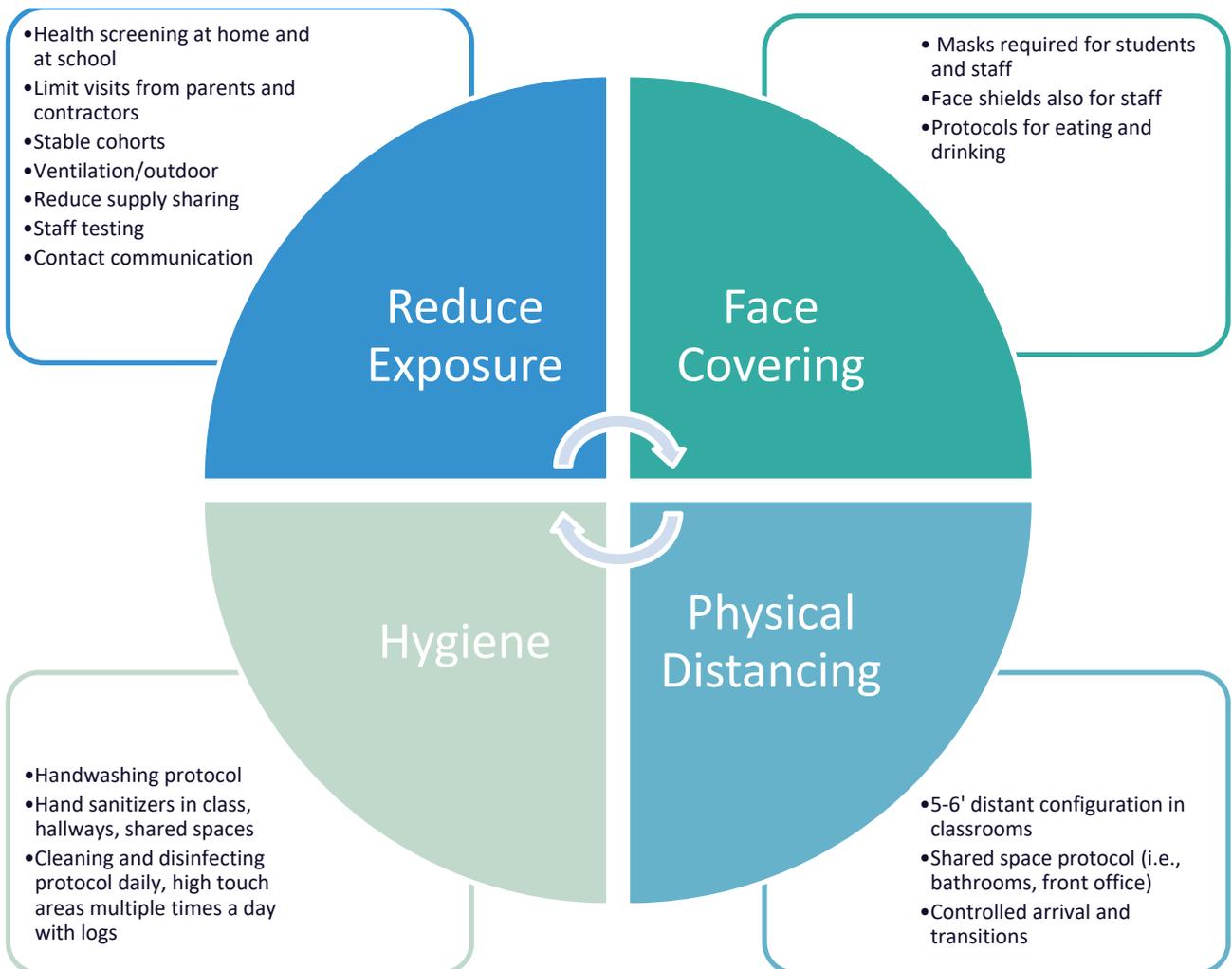
We will prioritize the following groups of students for this program:

- Children of essential workers,
- Students behind in academics,
- Requests pending space (i.e., single parent/guardian)

COVID-19 Safeguards

EBIA Culture of Care- Cover, Clean, Care (3Cs)

At EBIA, we are a community that cares for each other. We will extend our culture of care to meet the health and safety needs of the current time. Our team will provide ongoing education and support to staff, students, and families so that we all embrace the following practices on campus. EBIA follows Alameda County Office of Education/Alameda County Public Health Guidelines, which are subject to change.



Health Screening: at home and on campus

We ask each family and staff member to screen for temperature and symptoms at home *before* arriving on campus.

- Is your temperature 100.4 or higher?
- Is anyone that you are in close contact with or anyone in your household being tested or confirmed to be COVID-19 positive in the last 14 days?
- Do you currently have fever or chills?
- Do you have mild or moderate difficulty breathing?
- Do you have a new or worsening cough?
- Do you have loss of smell, taste, or appetite?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Do you have vomiting or diarrhea?
- Do you have fatigue and/or aches throughout the body?

If you answer “YES” to any of the above, we ask that you stay home in abundance of caution and contact a health provider for next steps. If you are tested and confirmed to be positive, please contact the school. We will take the necessary steps to contain the spread while protecting your privacy.

School staff will also be checking temperature and screening for symptoms on site.

Contact:

info@eastbayia.org

510-577-9557

Containment and Response Plans

What will happen if my student shows elevated temperature or exhibits symptoms when school staff screens or throughout the school day?

- Student will be immediately directed to a designated space on campus and parents/guardian will be contacted for immediate pickup. We will direct parent/guardian to inquire with healthcare provider about next steps.

What do I do if my student has close contact with an individual suspected (i.e., waiting for test results) or confirmed to have COVID-19?

- If the student had direct contact (less than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or more) with an individual confirmed or being tested for COVID-19,
 - Self-isolate at home for 14 days to minimize potential spread,
 - Monitor for symptoms,
 - Contact the doctor to see if testing is needed,
 - If tested, remain at home until results are received,
 - Contact and inform school (info@eastbayia.org, 510-577-9557),
 - Alert other close contacts of the potential spread.

What happens if there is a confirmed case in my student's group?

- School will consult with Alameda County Public Health and may contact families of all students in that group to inform and ask that all students in the group:
 - Self-isolate at home for 14 days to minimize potential spread,
 - Monitor for symptoms,
 - Contact the doctor to see if testing is needed,
 - If tested, remain at home until results are received,
 - Alert other close contacts of the potential spread.

When can an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 case return to campus?

-
- 3 days with no fever,
 - Respiratory symptoms are improved (i.e., cough, shortness of breath),
 - Clearance from healthcare provider.

Additional Information

Need Tech Support?

For hardware and software questions, email help@bonsaiteam.org or call (925) 494-2101. To reach school tech team, email remotetech@eastbayia.org.

Will EBIA provide food service during distance learning?

Yes, students qualifying for free or reduced lunch will receive lunch through school. For application and more information, email Ms. Bonita Herrera, bherrera@eastbayia.org.

Will attendance be required and documented in distance learning?

Yes, per state guidance, we will continue to monitor student attendance as we have in the spring. Daily attendance is mandated and critically important for student growth and well-being, especially during this time.

Will EBIA (Lower School) participate in League Sports this year?

Current public health guidance prohibits tournaments or competitions of youth sports. School will monitor the status as the year progresses.

Will Intersession continue at EBIA?

During the pandemic, Intersession will continue but in virtual format to minimize exposure to COVID-19.