



## FAQs for Back-to-School 2025-2026

### NEW TO BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

**1. I'm new to Bay County; how do I find out where my child goes to school?**

The zoning information is on our website ([www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)) under the topic I want to ... "Find My Zoned School." Click on the link and type in your address and zip code. It will inform you which school is your child's zoned school.

**2. I know where my child will go to school. How do I register him/her?**

You can access our registration guidelines at ([www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)) under the topic I want to... "Register My Child." New student registration (PreK -12) is done by visiting your zoned school.

**3. My child will need to ride the bus. How do I make that happen?**

Log into Parent Portal in FOCUS. Then, go to the Permissions tab and select "Yes" in the section titled "My child will need bus transportation." Directions for this are here:

A screenshot of the "Change Your Transportation Selection in Parent Portal" page. The page is framed by a decorative border of school buses. It contains the following elements:

- Bay District Schools Florida logo in the top left.
- Section title: "Change Your Transportation Selection in Parent Portal".
- Numbered instructions:
  1. Log in to your Parent Portal account.
  2. From the menu, select "Child Info".
  3. Accept the disclaimer by clicking the green "Accept" button.
  4. Select "Permissions" from the side menu.
- A side menu with options: "Child Info" (highlighted), "Change Requests", "Class Schedule", "Grades", "Grad Reqs", "Test History", "Absences", "Attendance", "Referrals", "School Choice".
- A section titled "Make your transportation selection by selecting the appropriate option from the dropdown." containing a dropdown menu with "My child will need bus transportation for the 22-23 school year" selected, and a "Filter" button.
- Below the dropdown, a table with columns "Performances/ITV" and "School/District website". The "Performances/ITV" column has "YES" and "NO" options, with "YES" selected.
- Instruction: "5. Click the red 'Save' icon at the top right." pointing to a red "Save" button.
- A note: "If you have multiple children, repeat these steps for each child!"
- A footer note: "You can also give permission for your student's image to be used on social media, the news, etc. on this screen!"

**4. How much does lunch cost?**

Meal prices vary depending on your child's age, school, and eligibility. To find out if your child's school provides free lunch or to view current meal prices, please visit [bay.k12.fl.us](http://bay.k12.fl.us).

Free/Reduced applications open again on August 1. Students who receive SNAP, TANF or MEDICAID will eat free. Full-priced meals will be as follows:

**ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST \$1.25**

**ELEMENTARY LUNCH \$2.50**

**SECONDARY (6-12) BREAKFAST \$1.50**

**SECONDARY (6-12) LUNCH \$2.75**

## GETTING ORGANIZED

### 1. Where do I find school supply lists for my school?

Our schools are developing school supply lists, which will be available in late July on our website ([www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)) under the “Back to School 2025-2026” tab. Please note that most high schools do not share a school supply list before school begins. However, high school teachers will share a list of any needed items with students during the first few days of school.

### 2. What does my student need to wear to school?

Bay District Schools has a dress code that you can find on our website ([www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)) under the “Back to School 2025-2026” tab. Students who choose not to follow the dress code will face disciplinary consequences and their parents will be asked to bring replacement clothing items to school ASAP.

### 3. Where do I find bus routes for this school year?

Bus Routes for the new school year will be available on August 1, 2025, at [www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)

### 4. Is there an orientation for my student? How do I find that schedule?

All schools are in the process of developing schedules for orientations. Schedules will be shared on our website ([www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)) under the “Back to School 2025-2026” tab in mid-July.

### 5. Are open houses already scheduled? Where's the list?

Open houses are a great way to stay in touch with your child's school and to meet his/her teacher(s) if you haven't already done so. Typically Open Houses occur in September and the schedules are published in early August on our website ([www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)) under the “Back to School 2025-2026” tab.

### 6. How early can I drop my elementary school child off in the morning?

Please remember that before-school supervision for elementary school typically does not begin until 7:05 a.m. You can check with your child's school for their specific schedule, but please DO NOT drop your students off before morning supervision begins.

### 7. How do I ensure another family member can pick up/check out my child from school?

All family members/friends authorized to complete these processes for your child MUST be listed on the child's Parent Portal account. If you need assistance setting this up, please contact your child's school.

### 8. Where do I find the school calendar?

School calendars are approved a year in advance and can be found on our website at [www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us).

### 9. How can I ensure I don't miss an important update from my child's school?

We work hard to communicate transparently and frequently, and we want to make sure we can get in touch with you for routine updates AND emergency information. Please ensure your Parent Portal account is updated with working phone numbers and email addresses so we can stay connected. If you need help with this, just reach out to your child's school.

# STAYING IN TOUCH

## 1. How do I make sure the school can contact me in an emergency?

School teachers and staff access parent/guardian contact information from the information you enter in Focus (also known as Parent Portal). Throughout the school year, you must regularly update your contact information (phone number, email address, emergency contacts, etc.). You can access Parent Portal at [focus.bayschools.net](https://focus.bayschools.net) to update your information. If you need to create a Parent Portal account, here are the instructions:

The screenshot shows the 'How do I create a Parent Portal account?' page on the Focus website. It includes the Bay District Schools Florida logo and a series of numbered instructions (1-13) for creating an account. The instructions guide the user through navigating to the website, selecting 'Access Grades & Attendance Records', requesting access, and adding students. A red note states: 'You will NOT see your students and their information until your child's school approves your account and adds them to your account. Please contact your child's school to complete the account creation process.' The page features a 'Parents' tab and a 'Students' tab, with the 'I want to...' dropdown menu set to 'Access Grades & Attendance Records'. There are buttons for 'Request Access to Parent Portal Account' and 'Click here to create a parent portal account or ADD A STUDENT'.

**How do I create a Parent Portal account?**

1. Navigate to bay.k12.fl.us
2. Scroll down to the section titled, "I want to..."
3. Click "Access Grades & Attendance Records"
4. Scroll down to the section titled, "Request Access to Parent Portal Account:"
5. Select "Click here to create a parent portal account or ADD A STUDENT."
6. On the new page, select "I DO NOT have an account registered on the Parent Portal but my child is actively enrolled."
7. On the next page, enter the appropriate information.  
**Note the email address and password used here – these will be used to log in to your account!**
8. On the next page, select "I would like to ADD A CHILD who is already enrolled."
9. Enter your child's Student ID and Birthdate.
10. Click "Add Student".
11. If you have multiple students to add to your account, complete steps 8-10 until all students have been added.
12. When finished, click "I am FINISHED adding students. Please take me to the Portal."
13. You will now be able to view your account.

**You will NOT see your students and their information until your child's school approves your account and adds them to your account. Please contact your child's school to complete the account creation process.**

You can access Parent Portal at [focus.bayschools.net](https://focus.bayschools.net) or use the app. Directions for downloading and using the app can be found at: [How to Use the Parent Portal APP](#)

## 2. What is Bay District Schools' policy regarding custody, parental rights, and school involvement?

Bay District Schools is committed to helping all parents and guardians understand their rights and responsibilities related to student enrollment and educational choices. The 2025–2026 school year will bring a few important updates. Learn more at:

<https://bay.k12.fl.us/uploads/ImportantUpdateonStudentEnrollmentandEducationalDecisions.docx.pdf>

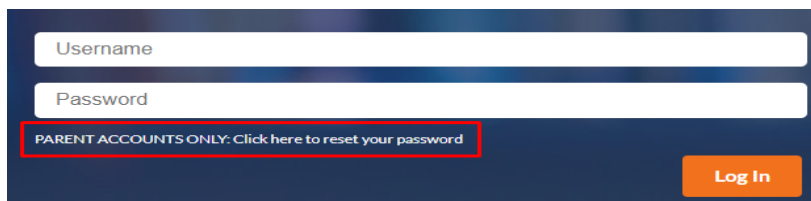
## 3. How do I stay connected to my child's teacher?

The best way to communicate with your child's teacher is through your Focus (Parent Portal). Teachers access this site daily and usually multiple times a day. Use the Messenger feature to message a teacher; this option is at the bottom left of your Parent Portal home page.



#### 4. I have forgotten my Parent Portal password/login. Who can help me?

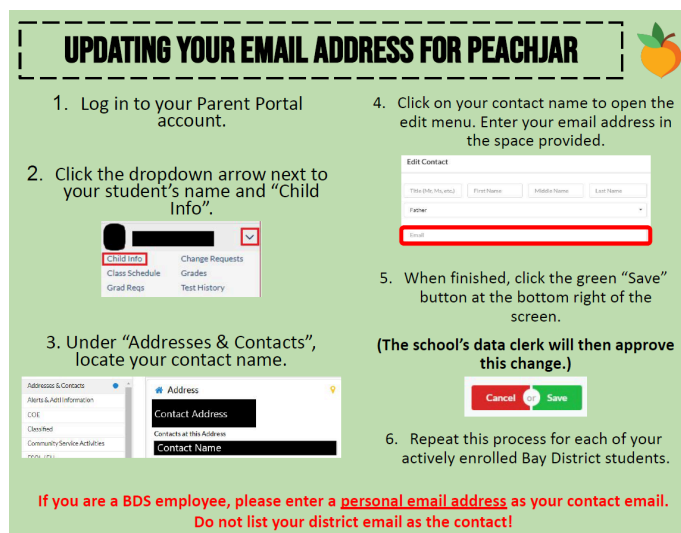
Use the password reset link on the Parent Portal homepage (focus.bayschools.net):

A screenshot of the Parent Portal login page. It features a dark blue background with two white input fields for 'Username' and 'Password'. Below the password field, there is a red-bordered box containing the text 'PARENT ACCOUNTS ONLY: Click here to reset your password'. To the right of the input fields is an orange 'Log In' button.

If you can still not reset your password or log in, please contact your child's school; someone there will be happy to help.

#### 5. Someone told me about PeachJar, but I don't get those emails. How can I fix that?

Emails for PeachJar are received directly from Parent Portal (Focus). You can update your email address by accessing the Child Info screen and then Addresses & Contacts. Directions for updating your email address in Parent Portal are here:

A green instructional graphic titled 'UPDATING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR PEACHJAR' with a peach icon. It contains six numbered steps: 1. Log in to your Parent Portal account. 2. Click the dropdown arrow next to your student's name and 'Child Info'. 3. Under 'Addresses & Contacts', locate your contact name. 4. Click on your contact name to open the edit menu. Enter your email address in the space provided. 5. When finished, click the green 'Save' button at the bottom right of the screen. 6. Repeat this process for each of your actively enrolled Bay District students. The graphic includes screenshots of the 'Child Info' dropdown menu, the 'Addresses & Contacts' section, and the 'Edit Contact' form. A red box highlights the 'Email' field in the 'Edit Contact' form. A note at the bottom states: 'If you are a BDS employee, please enter a personal email address as your contact email. Do not list your district email as the contact!'

#### 6. What resources can I use to stay in touch with my child's school?

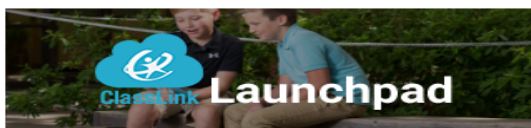
Parent Portal is the essential way to stay connected with your child's teachers, see their grades, and communicate with teachers. In addition, you can check to see if your child's school uses social media platforms to share upcoming events, celebrations, and important information.

#### 7. How do I determine if my child has passed to the next grade?

Look for the End of Year Status at the bottom left of your student's Quarter 4 report card. Contact your student's school with specific questions or concerns about this status.

#### 8. What is Launchpad, and how does my student access it at home?

Launchpad is a one-stop-shop for accessing computer programs and online textbooks. You can find Canvas, your student's Focus account, and his/her Gmail account here. In addition, your student can access Launchpad at [launchpad.classlink.com/bayschools](https://launchpad.classlink.com/bayschools). You will also find a shortcut to Launchpad on the Bay District Schools website.



## Other Questions

### **If I have another question, where do I find the answer?**

Our website ([www.bay.k12.fl.us](http://www.bay.k12.fl.us)) features an interactive chatbot (Ty) that will try to help you with all your questions. You can find the cartoon Pencil icon on the bottom right corner of your screen, whether you're on a mobile phone or desktop. Ty has built-in questions and answers and will attempt to get you the necessary information. If that doesn't help, call your child's school or the district office at 850-767-4100.