

RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING FOR 2021-2022

Chicago Heights School District 170

Chicago Heights, IL

July 12, 2021

CORE GOALS

- Return to campus for all staff members.
- Provide in-person learning for all students (five days per week).
- Follow CDC and IDPH guidelines for health and safety.
- Focus on mental health and a successful transition to in-person learning.
- Provide interventions and academic support for all students not yet on grade level.
- Continue promotion of vaccines for adults and students.

IN THE EVENT OF REMOTE LEARNING:

- Decisions to revert to remote learning will be based on advice from medical experts from the health departments along with any state-level directives.
- Continue the use of online learning platforms (Google Classroom, Pearson, iReady, Carnegie, Discovery Ed, etc.)
- Provide 1:1 technology for all students K-8.
- Collaboration between administrators and staff to proactively plan should the district revert to remote learning.
- The district intends to have instructors allocated to grade level spans to instruct students who are quarantined, thereby, eliminating or minimizing the need for concurrent teaching.

What will the school day
look like?

BUILDING CAPACITIES AND LEARNING SPACES

- Maximize social distancing to the extent possible
(The CDC recommends 3 ft. when possible. If schools cannot fully reopen with 3 ft. social distancing, multiple mitigation measures should be enacted-ie, masks).
- Masks should be worn by all individuals (age 2 or older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- Students will attend encore classes (P.E, Music, Art, Media, Stem, etc.)
- Meals: Use of additional spaces may be utilized to maintain social distancing.

K-8TH GRADE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Students will fully engage in all content areas including core subjects and specials.
- K-5 students will transition to other locations for specials (P.E., Music, Art, Media); 6-8 grade students will return to traditional schedules and changing of classes.
- Staff will continue the use of best practices and learning tools to create safe, respectful, learning environments where students are engaged and challenged (technology and face to face instruction).
- Focus on grade level learning and accelerate learning where gaps exist in academics and SEL.
- Students continue to have technology devices to support independent learning.
- Students will have access to before and after school activities in compliance with CDC, IDPH, and IESA guidelines.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will continue to be provided for all eligible SDI70 students.

Safety Measures

- New bus drivers and aides will be trained on safety protocol.
- Drivers and passengers must wear masks.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

- Students will eat in classrooms/cafeterias/gymnasiums - this will depend on size of cafeteria spaces, timing of lunch periods, and in-person enrollment at each school. (Note-Students, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating-per CDC Guidance.)
- Consideration of outdoor options that meet school health and life safety requirements
- Each school will plan lunch schedules in accordance with districtwide guidelines.
- Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (per CDC Guidance).

RECESS

- Recess will continue to be held outdoors as long as weather permits.
- Use of playground equipment will be allowed.
- People who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with others not fully vaccinated (per CDC Guidance).
- During inclement weather, students will be assigned to indoor spaces for recess.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Programming will resume to include academic, enrichment, and SEL supports and activities.
- Sports will resume in accordance with State of Illinois guidelines.
- Students who are not fully vaccinated and participate in indoor sports and other higher-risk activities should continue to wear masks and keep physical distance as much as possible (Per CDC Guidance).

FIELD TRIPS, GATHERINGS, AND VISITORS

- Schools may organize walking field trips with adequate supervision. Due to continued health concerns, bus use for field trips will not be permitted at this time.
- Field trip guidelines may change as more information becomes available.
- All indoor and outdoor gatherings are subject to IDPH capacity guidelines.
- Visitors will not be allowed during the school day unless the person has registered and been approved as an official volunteer.
- Health and safety measures must be adhered to by all visitors, staff, and students.

MITIGATION MEASURES: THEY WORK!!!

Lessons Learned: Proven and effective strategies for stopping the spread of COVID-19.

- ❑ Sick students and staff must remain at home.
- ❑ Masks are required to be worn by all **unvaccinated staff and students** at all times except when eating.
- ❑ Maintain social distancing, especially when eating.
- ❑ Complete your daily health certification.
- ❑ Avoid touching your face.
- ❑ Wash hands often.
- ❑ Follow all posted signage.

USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Masks will continue to be worn by unvaccinated staff and students
- Masks are required to be worn on school buses.
- Students and staff should use their own masks (and bring a spare).
- School District 170 will have a supply of disposable masks for those students or staff who don't have one or forget theirs at home.
- Additional PPE will be available for educators as needed.
- District 170 will continue to monitor IDPH/CDC guidance on loosening restrictions.

FACILITY SAFETY

- Continued daily cleaning protocols in accordance with CDC and OSHA guidelines
- Hallways and stairways designated as one-way or directional marked for traffic flow
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout buildings and in all classrooms and common areas
- Health and safety signage in English and Spanish

HEALTH MEASURES

- General and close contact notifications of positive COVID-19 cases
- Continued use of supervised isolation rooms
- Contact tracing will be conducted in conjunction with local health departments.
- Quarantine guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals (IDPH Interim Exclusion Guidance for Prek-12 Schools)

TRANSITIONS

- Each school leadership team will develop a Return to School plan with the following focus areas:
 - Establish school norms, values, and expectations and develop student ownership.
 - Orient students and staff to the routines and shared practices in the building.
 - Create a sense of community that honors the differences found within the student body while promoting school spirit and vision.
 - Continue with academic and SEL goal setting as a shared priority across the district for all students.

LEARNING ACCELERATION

Core elements for acceleration of learning moving forward:

- Build off of strong practices from past years. (Staff have been provided with the most up to date professional development over the last several years.)
- Ensure that all students experience high quality grade level teaching and learning in the environment that meets their needs.
- Provide small group work or tutoring when a student needs additional support within or beyond the school day.

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

- Provide devices (chromebooks) for all students.
- All staff have been provided new educator computers.
- Make HotSpots available for families that are in need of Internet access

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Individualized process for each student
- Needs assessment and present levels will drive services:
 - Individual Remote Learning Plans were created for all students with an IEP.
 - Additional specialized instruction to address goals not targeted during remote learning
- Emphasis on family engagement and partnerships

DUAL LANGUAGE AND BILINGUAL STUDENTS

- ACCESS Testing will be given in the spring of 2022.
- ESL Lead Teachers are provided at each school to support ELs.
- Spanish Language Arts curricular materials are utilized according to District Allocation Plan.
- BPAC and family engagement are available for all families.

UPDATES & REVISIONS

As state guidelines are revised, this document will be adjusted accordingly.