



BACK TO SCHOOL TRANSITION PLAN

Community Consolidated School District 146
2020-2021 School Year
Spring Updates



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Background

In March of 2020, District 146 was charged with responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Staff, with the help of families, responded to the charge of “keeping the learning going” for District 146 students while prioritizing the health and safety of all members of the school community. District 146 swiftly implemented a full remote learning plan that took staff and students to the end of the school year. Staff also focused a great deal on the well-being of individual families, sharing public resources, and providing daily meals to all families in the District.

In June, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released the “The 2020-21 School Year Part 3-Transition Joint Guidance,” as part of Phases 3 and 4 of Illinois’ reopening plan. The guidance set forth was considered by the initial District 146 Transition Planning Committee as the District 146 Back to School Transition Plan was created. The full original ISBE Guidance document can be [found here](#).

In July of 2020, the District 146 Board of Education approved a reopening plan that included a return to in-person instruction through a hybrid learning model. Two weeks prior to the first day of school, the approved plan was changed at an Emergency Board of Education meeting after Illinois released more stringent health requirements for schools to reopen. Therefore, District 146 Board of Education made the decision to begin the school year with Full Remote Instruction for all students for everyone’s safety with the goal of re-evaluating the plan before the start of the second trimester.

In the months following, District 146 obtained the necessary PPE and safely reentered small groups of students to our buildings for priority services. In late September, District 146 formed an expanded Transition Team to address the best model for the safe re-entry of our students, while still offering a full remote option for families.

In an effort to bring as many students back as safely as possible, the District began offering two learning model options in November 2020. Families were able to stay in a 100% remote learning model, or select a hybrid model with students attending in-person for half a day, and completing their remaining day at home.

In February 2021, the Board asked the administration to work on a plan to bring students back for full day instruction. A plan was developed to safely allow students to return to school for a full day of learning and also offer a remote option for those families who choose it. [Revised IDPH and ISBE guidelines](#) were used during the planning. The District will transition to the new learning model options on April 5.

Stakeholder Feedback and Committee Planning

The initial District 146 transition planning process was multi-layered and involved stakeholders from across the District. Parents, students, and staff were surveyed in the Spring and Summer of 2020. Surveys included feedback on their remote learning experience in the Spring, as well as feedback regarding models and limitations moving forward.

The initial District 146 Transition Planning Committee was formed in late June, 2020, upon release of the ISBE guidance. The District-level committee included a representative group of District and school administrators, union leadership, teachers, and educational support staff. The initial team consisted of a small, yet diverse group of staff and administrators. Subcommittees reviewed three areas: school environment, health and wellness; instruction; operations and facilities. Each subcommittee came up with the recommendations and guidelines, many of which are still relevant in support of the updated transition plan.

In August, 2020, all stakeholders were surveyed regarding their experience with the full remote program. Adjustments were then made to the full remote model, based on the feedback. In late September, it became a priority of District 146 to begin bringing our students back in-person ahead of our original schedule. An expanded District Transition Team was formed to determine the best model for returning students in-person, while continuing to follow health and safety guidelines. The expanded transition team included members of each of our building’s leadership teams, district administration, and union leadership.

In Winter, 2021, District 146 families and staff were once again surveyed. The feedback received was used to adjust the learning models offered, while maintaining as much consistency for as many students as possible. It was clear that the will of much of our community was to return to full, in person instruction as safely as possible. To answer that call, administration began working to develop a full in person model and an improved full remote program. Members of the latest Transition Team are below.

District 146 Transition Team, Spring 2021

Dr. Damien Aherne Fierke Principal	Randy Fortin Central Principal	Carey Radke Kruse Principal
Laura Bachman Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent	Kim Hartnett Fulton/Kruse Assistant Principal	Kristen Salwierak Central Assistant Principal
Marian Betley District Nurse Coordinator	Alison Lincoln Central Assistant Principal	Dr. Jeff Stawick Superintendent
Vern Bettis Director of Technology	Megan Mitera Fulton Principal	Joe Trsar Memorial Principal
Adelicia Brienzo Coordinator of Bilingual and Early Learning Services	Brianne Oliver Special Education Coordinator	Kelly Voliva Director of Student Services
		Wendy Wolgan Director of Curriculum

In February, 2021, families were asked to select either full in person, or full remote for the remainder of the year. Once families made their selection, the District 146 Administration finalized the details of the plan.

Guiding Principles and Resources

During the planning process, the safety and security of students and staff members remained the top priority. While planning, the committee continued to ask themselves the following questions:

- What is best for students?
- How do we balance safety and quality?

The District 146 Back to School Transition Plan is based on the most recent public health information, including guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Links to guidance documents can be found at the end of this document. It is important to note that the District 146 plan may be adjusted based on new guidance from ISBE and/or other public health officials in response to evolving COVID-19 conditions. All updates will be posted online on the District's website and shared with families and employees.

General Considerations and ISBE Guidance

The Illinois State Board of Education emphasized a "return to in-person instruction to the extent possible," and included three options:

- Full Return to In-person Instruction
- Blended/Hybrid Model of Remote and In-person Instruction
- 100% Remote Instruction

Academic Considerations

- 5 hours of instruction are required daily
- Appropriate staff planning and collaboration time
- Professional development needs

Health and Safety Considerations

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings.
- Require physical distancing to be observed, as much as possible (no less than 3 feet between desks; 6 feet when eating with masks off; 6 feet when outside with masks off).
- Capacity limits for in-person learning, including non-academic school hour activities such as lunch, will be determined by the space's ability to accommodate physical distancing and not a set capacity limit.
- Require schools track symptom screenings with individuals self-certifying that they are free of symptoms before entering the school buildings.
- Require temperature checks within ten minutes of student arrival.

- Schedule hand washing / hand cleansing breaks upon arrival, after restroom use, before eating, after recess and outdoor mask breaks, and prior to dismissal.
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.

Instructional Models

Families have been asked to commit to a learning model for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. District 146 offered parents the choice of two options:

Option 1 - Full day, in-person learning, 5 days a week

Option 2 - 100% Remote Learning for those families that wish to keep their children at home.

Option 1: Full day, in-person learning

Students attend school in person five full days a week. Grade level/content area teachers will deliver in-person instruction daily with a focus on SEL, ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science.

Elementary Schedule

Arrival: 8:40 a.m.

Instruction Begins: 8:55 a.m.

Dismissal: 3:35 p.m.

Central Middle School Schedule

Arrival: 7:50 a.m.

Instruction Begins: 8:00 a.m.

Dismissal: 2:55 p.m.

Priority Populations for Increased In-Person Instruction

All students, K-8, with special education needs returning for full, in-person instruction will receive services as indicated in their IEPs.

All students, K-8, will receive English language services as necessary to support full day, in-person instruction.

Special consideration will be made to transition students with special education needs back to a full day learning environment.

Please note: Early Learning students will continue to follow their current schedule and program for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Other Program Considerations

- If a student is required to quarantine from the full in-person model, learning support will be available to the student while completing asynchronous work.
- The Professional Development Committee and administration developed a remote learning plan that is approved by the State of Illinois. The plan has served as a resource in the development of our full remote program.

Option 2: 100% Remote Learning

- Students will engage in a typical school day with grade level/content area teachers delivering instruction daily with a focus on SEL, ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science.
- Combination of Asynchronous and Synchronous Learning that follow State Learning Standards and district curriculum maps:
 - Asynchronous Learning: Independent work directed by teacher for core content
 - Synchronous Learning: Teacher-facilitated instruction
- Students will be required to attend remote learning classes daily.
- Students will receive small group instruction in Zoom break-out rooms or during scheduled Zoom times.
- District 146 students may be assigned to remote learning classrooms in their grade levels with students from across the District.
- Social-emotional learning lessons will be embedded in the curriculum to support unique student needs during the pandemic.
- Dates will be set for supply pickup so students can receive supplies or materials necessary to engage in remote learning.
- District 146 grading practices, traditional and standards-based, will be followed in remote learning.

Elementary

Instruction Begins: 8:55 a.m.

Dismissal: 3:35 p.m.

Central Middle School

Instruction Begins: 8:00 a.m.

Dismissal: 2:55 p.m.

Priority Populations

Students participating in full remote instruction may continue to require amendments to their special education and English language services.

Sample In-person and Remote Schedules

Elementary Schools

K-5 Sample In-Person and Remote Learning Schedules 8:55 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.

In-Person-Schedule	Remote-Schedule
60-70 min Math w/whole group direct instruction and small groups	60-70 min Math w/whole group direct instruction and small groups-breakout rooms
90 min ELA with whole group direct instruction and small groups	90 min ELA with whole group direct instruction and small groups-breakout rooms
30 min SEL	30 min SEL
50 min specials	50 min specials
30 min social studies/science	30 min social studies/science
30 min intervention	30 min- Intervention
Time for mask breaks	25 minutes of learning support and homework help
**Additional time allotted for lunch, recess, transitions, arrival/dismissal, etc.	



CMS Sample In-Person and Remote Learning Schedules 8:00 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.

In-Person-Schedule	Remote-Schedule
Advisory- 26 min (SEL)	Advisory- 26 min (SEL)
Four 56 minute core classes with whole group direct instruction and small group work- (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies)	Four 56 min Core classes w/whole group direct instruction and small groups/breakout rooms -(ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies)
30 minutes of Band/Post Lunch Crunch	30 minutes of Band/Post Lunch Crunch
39 minutes of Encore instruction (Art, Music, FACS, Wellness)	39 minutes of Encore instruction live/pre-recorded (Music/Social Emotional)
39 minutes of P.E. instruction	39 minute P.E. instruction pre-recorded
Lunch (30 minutes)	Lunch (30 minutes)
**Additional time allotted for brain breaks/movement breaks	



School Environment Practices and Protocols

All District 146 campuses will open for full day in-person instruction. However, significant steps will be taken to keep students, staff, and community members safe while adhering to all applicable health orders. All staff, students, and visitors will be expected to practice the protocols below.

Requirements for school building entry

- All in-person students will be required to review the [Student Daily Health Screener](#) and present the [Daily Self-Certification](#) slip (green slip) upon arrival to the building and prior to boarding the bus. A pad of self-certification slips will be provided to each student for use.
- Temperature checks will be taken for all students and visitors upon arrival using no-touch thermometers.
- Face masks will be mandatory for all students, staff, and visitors, unless the individual is under the age of two.

Arrival/Dismissal

- All students, staff, and visitors will be required to maintain safe distances while in vestibules and holding areas (greater than 3 feet with a face covering).
- Staggered arrival/dismissal time and staging areas will be considered to maintain proper physical distancing guidelines.
- Families are encouraged to transport students to and from school when possible.

NOTE: Specific arrival and dismissal procedures will be set at the building-level and will be communicated by each school.

Classrooms

- Classroom seating will be configured using individual desks at least 3 feet apart and/or tables with students at every other seat to maintain physical distancing guidelines.
- Face masks will be required at all times for students in grades PreK-8, except while eating, during band, and when outdoors on the playground when distance is 6 feet or greater.
- Student schedules were developed to limit the travel of students throughout the day, and to limit the mixing of different student cohorts as much as possible.
- Specialized instruction may take place outside of the general classroom setting with individual and/or small groups of students.
 - Increased personal protective equipment is required and supplied if social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained during small groups.
- Instructional plans will be modified to reduce student contact and the sharing of materials or equipment, and to maintain health guidelines.
- Class sizes will be as small as possible to maintain physical distancing guidelines.

Hallways/Restroom/Locker Usage

- Limits will be placed on the number of students allowed in the hallway at one time, and the number of students using the restroom at one time.
- Individual student lockers may be utilized to maintain students' personal items.
- Buildings will develop individual schedules to support staggered hallway times, restroom use, and locker access. Hallway and locker use may vary depending on individual school procedures.

Personal Items

- The borrowing or sharing of items will be limited.
- Students are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to school labeled with student names.
- Personal snacks will be allowed for preschool students.
 - Teachers will communicate to parents if snacks are needed.
 - Proper physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained while eating snacks.

Food Services

- Students will be allowed to remove masks if eating, while following 6 feet physical distancing guidelines.
- Students will eat in the lunchroom and/or other large common area with physical distancing of 6 feet or more maintained.
- There will be no onsite food service at this time. Students should eat breakfast at home before school. Students should bring a sack lunch with them to school, including a drink. Cold lunches should be sent, as heating will not be available.
- Breakfast and lunch distribution for families is available twice a week.

Outdoor Recess

- Face masks are not required during outdoor recess if students can maintain 6 feet physical distancing guidelines.

- Playground equipment will be available for a limited number of students at a time. While using the playground equipment, students will be required to wear masks as 6 feet distancing will not be possible.

Extracurricular and Other Activities

- Extracurricular clubs will be offered virtually or in person to the greatest extent possible.
- Extracurricular sports clinics and/or practices will be offered to the greatest extent possible.
- Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings will be limited.

Transportation

- Students must show their [Daily Self-Certification](#) slip (green slip) before boarding the bus.
- Face masks must be worn at all times while students are entering, exiting, and riding the bus.
- Assigned seats will be required to and from school. Students will be seated with siblings or classmates as much as possible.
- Routes will be created with a maximum number of 50 students per bus.
- Buses will be disinfected in between student routes.

Visitors

- Limits will be placed on nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities with external groups.
- Essential visitors will be required to self-certify, which will include an on-site temperature check conducted by a staff member.
- Essential visitors will be required to wear a face mask at all times while in the building.
- Deliveries should be limited to vestibules, including parent drop off of student personal items.

Cleaning

- All custodial staff will complete, or have completed, updated training on new CDC and OSHA guidelines, and will utilize EPA approved products for COVID and other viral pathogens.
- Increased daily cleaning protocols will be instituted at all facilities with an emphasis on repeated cleaning of high-touch/high traffic areas.
- Additional custodial staff have been added to support the increased cleaning efforts.
- Alcohol foaming hand sanitizer has been installed in every room.
- Disinfectant will be provided to all staff so cleaning can occur throughout the day as needed.
- All areas where students eat will be disinfected after use.
- Shared objects and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before and after use to the greatest extent possible.
- Any area used by an individual showing signs of illness will be closed until proper cleaning and disinfection can be completed.

General Health, Wellness and Safety Guidelines

Personal Protective Equipment

- Fabric face masks are required for all students (PreK-8th) and staff at all times, unless eating and/or maintaining 6 feet of physical distancing.
 - Staff and students are encouraged to use a face covering of their own choice.

- A limited supply of face masks will be available for students who forget theirs at home.
- Face shields have been offered to all staff as an added layer of protection; particularly when proper physical distancing is not able to be maintained.
- Students that are not able to adhere to health guidelines and the use of face masks, may not be eligible for in-person instruction.
- Neck gaiters and face masks with valves are not allowed.
- Adapted face coverings may be considered under special circumstances, as deemed appropriate, by a physician’s note and/or a student’s IEP team.

Health and Hygiene Practices

- Proper hand washing guidelines will be reviewed with all students and visual reminders will be posted in classrooms and around the school.
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing will occur throughout the school day including upon arrival, dismissal, before eating, after restroom use and recess.
- Increased signage has been posted throughout the buildings, including at entries, with health and safety reminders.

Symptoms and Temperature Checks

- All students and staff are required to complete a daily health self-certification, which includes daily temperature checks.
 - Staff are required to verify daily prior to arrival at work.
 - Students are required to verify daily prior to boarding the bus, or arrival and participation for in-person instruction using the [Daily Self-Certification](#) slip (green slip.)
- All visitors are required to self-certify, which includes an on-site temperature check conducted by a staff member.

Social Emotional Screening and Mental Health Support

- All students will be screened upon their return to school regarding social emotional needs to assist in identifying students that require additional support.
- Staff have completed and will continue to participate in Trauma Informed professional development activities to support additional student social-emotional needs.
- A “Request of Assistance” form will be available to families for those that need to access additional supports/services/resources inside and outside of school.
- Available resources will be shared with families and updated on the District website as they become available.

COVID-19 Symptomatic and/or Confirmed Cases

- Any individual who shows signs or symptoms of illness should stay home.
 - Students will not be penalized for missing school and are encouraged to stay home when they are not feeling well.
- School nurses will call parents, ask about symptoms, and provide guidance when absences are reported.
- Separate rooms will be available at school for any student or staff who exhibits symptoms while at school.
 - If a student has been placed in quarantine at school, parents/guardians will be required to pick up their child within 30 minutes.

- Contact Tracing will be implemented to identify those in close contact at school with individuals identified as a confirmed COVID positive or probable case.
 - Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive or probable case for a total of 15 minutes or more, with or without a face mask, over during a 24 hour period during the infection period. The infection period is within 48 hours of onset of symptoms (if symptomatic), or a positive COVID-19 test (if asymptomatic).
 - Any individual coming in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 will be required to quarantine at home and monitor symptoms for 10 calendar days. This period of 10 calendar days is required even if the individual in close contact tests negative.
 - Students required to quarantine due to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted by your school or your local health department. Students will receive asynchronous remote learning with support during their quarantine period.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or are probable cases may return to school (a) once symptoms improve, and (b) there is no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and (c) 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Students or staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 will be required to check in with the school nurse, HR, /or building administration and provide necessary paperwork and documentation.

Resources

- [The American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [Illinois State Board of Education](#)
- [ISBE Quarantine Decision Tree](#)
- [Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools \(ISBE/IDPH\)](#)