



Frankfort

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 157-C

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REOPENING SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Beginning September 21, 2020

Acronyms Used In This Document

CDC: Center for Disease Control

HVAC: Heating, Ventilation and Air Condition

IDPH: Illinois Department of Public Health

IESA: Illinois Elementary School Association

ISBE: Illinois State Board of Education

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Re-Entry Plan for Weeks of September 21 and 28, 2020

The District has addressed the IDPH and ISBE guidelines and requirements to open school for in-person learning. Simultaneously, the COVID-19 metrics for positivity rates and cases have been on the decline. Therefore, the District is ready to open school with a transition plan the weeks of September 21 and 28. Those students who choose to attend school in person will attend one day each week according to the schedule below. During these weeks, students will be introduced to the new procedures and schedules that will be implemented to ensure we are in full compliance with the IDPH and ISBE requirements.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week of 9/21 and 9/28	All Remote	Grades 2, 5, 8 attend in-person; All other remote	Grades 1, 4, 7 attend in-person; All other remote	Grades K, 3, 6 attend in-person; All other remote	All Remote
Week of 10/5	All In-Person or All Optional Remote				

School will resume on Monday, October 5, 2020 for full in-person learning five days a week. Students choosing the optional remote learning plan will begin the plan with their newly assigned remote teacher(s) on Monday, October 5, as well.

IN-PERSON LEARNING QUESTIONS

Mandatory COVID-19 Daily Symptom Check Procedures

How will the daily symptom check procedure work for my child?

The Board of Education has adopted policy to ensure parents comply with the state mandate to check their children each day for COVID-19 symptoms. The District will be using a bracelet method on a daily basis to easily identify students who have been checked for COVID-19 symptoms before arriving to school. Families will be receiving a packet in the mail the week of September 14. The packet will include the daily symptom check procedures along with a sheet of name labels for your child.

Parents/guardians will be required to sign off on the *Self-Certification and Verification Form* prior to the first day of student attendance. The form will be available on the District website the week of September 14. By providing an electronic signature to the form, the parent/guardian is agreeing to conduct a daily COVID-19 symptom check for each child attending school.

On the first day of attendance, parent must check the child. If the child is cleared to attend school, the parent will check the box on the label, sign and date the label. The child will wear the label to school to indicate that the symptom check has been completed. On the first day, your child will receive two 'TIGER STRONG' bracelets from the classroom teacher. The bracelet should be worn each day your child attends school. The bracelet indicates that a parent/guardian has checked the child for symptoms and that the child is symptom free. Keep the spare bracelet in a handy place at home in the event the bracelet needs to be replaced.

Students who arrive to school without the label or bracelet will be tested at school and parents/guardians will be reminded that this is required. If a pattern of non-compliance emerges, the student will be transferred to a remote learning classroom for the remainder of the quarter. Parents/Guardians that are unwilling or unable to perform the daily symptom check should select remote learning for their child(ren)

School Supply Questions

Is there going to be a revised school supply list because of the limited classes?

No. The supply list will not be revised. If you have already purchased the box kit or all the items, that is fine. The principals and teachers will be sending out a letter in early August with the list of the essential items to bring on the first day and then as supplies are needed, students will be informed to bring them from home.

Can my child bring a personal size hand sanitizer to school?

Yes.

How will Grand Prairie students store their daily school supplies to avoid using a communal box or bin?

The District has purchased a clear fanny pack for each Grand Prairie student. The pack will be large enough to hold the daily school supplies needed for instruction. The students will receive the fanny pack on the first day of school.

How will Chelsea and Hickory Creek students carry all of their materials with them all day without the use of lockers?

Since locker use will be suspended, students will need to carry items with them throughout the day. We encourage students to pack lightly and only bring items to school that are essential. In the back-to-school letter from principals and teachers, students will be informed about what to bring to school on the first day. A smaller backpack is recommended to limit any additional clutter in the classrooms.

Face Covering Questions

Why does my child have to wear a face mask?

The use of face masks, when worn properly, has proven to be the best practice to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The IDPH and ISBE have made it mandatory for everyone in a school building statewide to wear a mask while indoors. Outdoor mask wearing is required if social distancing cannot be practiced.

Why can't my child wear a face shield instead of a mask?

The IDPH and ISBE have shared documentation showing that face shields are not as effective against the spread of COVID-19. For this reason, ISBE/IDPH will not permit shields except under special circumstances.

Will the District provide my child with a mask if he/she does not have one?

We have purchased a reusable FSD 157-C mask for every student and staff member. Parents/guardians are encouraged to select a mask for their child or send the mask they have been wearing this spring/summer. There will be extra masks at each school and on the bus.

Does my child need to wear a mask on the school bus?

Yes. All children and staff on board a school bus are ***required*** to wear a face mask.

Does my child need to wear a mask outdoors?

Unless individuals can keep a 6-foot distance from one another outdoors, face masks will be required, as mandated by IDPH and ISBE.

How will the District enforce the wearing of masks?

Our school nurses will be developing videos to teach students of the importance of wearing a mask at school. They will focus on how to wear a mask properly. If a student refuses to wear a mask, the student will be re-taught the expectations and importance of wearing a mask. If the child continues to refuse to wear a mask, the student will be sent to the office and parents will be called to pick up the student. For students with disabilities, reasonable accommodations may be made on an individual basis when medical documentation has been provided.

My student walks to school with other students, should they be wearing face masks while walking?

If your child cannot keep a 6-foot distance from another child while outdoors, a mask should be worn.

My child has a medical condition and cannot wear a face mask. What are our options?

There may be a small minority of individuals who have a medical contraindication to using face coverings. If face shields can be tolerated, face shields might be utilized in these situations, understanding their limitations and the heightened need for strict adherence to social distancing. Schools will review information such as a physician's note documenting the medical contraindication for any individual who is not able to wear a face covering.

What kind of face mask is appropriate for my child to wear?

The IDPH and CDC specify that a cloth OR medical grade face covering are appropriate. The mask should cover both the nose and mouth, tuck under the chin and fit snugly on the sides of the face. ISBE has not indicated the need for a specific brand, style or material/composition.

For more information on proper mask wearing, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-covering.pdf>

Will my child's class have face mask breaks?

Yes. There will be face mask breaks scheduled throughout the day. As in the past, teachers are very in tune to their class and take 'brain breaks' or 'movement breaks' when the students demonstrate a need. Teachers will do the same for face mask breaks.

Social Distancing Questions

What is the maximum number of students that will be allowed per classroom?

Currently, our class sizes are below the desired class size and we expect lower class sizes this year due to those families choosing the remote option. Per our collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the Frankfort Teachers Association, the following lists our class size limits:

K – Grade 2: Desired class size is 23 students, not to exceed 26
Grades 3- 5: Desired class size 26 students, not to exceed 28
Grades 6-8: Desired class size is 28 students, not to exceed 30.

Was a hybrid plan considered to lower the number of students in the building and what were the reason(s) for not proposing or considering such plan?

The District Task Force researched a number of models for in-person and remote learning, including a hybrid model where students attend school for less than five days a week or attend school for a shortened period each day. This model may work well in schools where overcrowding already exists. We do not have this problem with our large school buildings, large outdoor areas and manageable numbers of students in our buildings. We are well below the maximum capacity based on a recent study by our architectural firm.

How much social distance will be expected between students?

The District will space students out as much as possible, understanding that every classroom configuration, capacity and class size may vary. Because of these variables, we are unable to provide a set number of feet between each student. All non-essential furniture has been removed from classrooms to allow for more room for each child's work area.

Will there be additional staff in the classrooms and schools to monitor social distancing and mask wearing?

There will be additional staff assigned to supervision this year in each school to assist students with the face covering and social distancing expectations.

Health Related Questions

What is the process for schools to follow for COVID-19 related situations?

The IDPH released updated guidance for schools to follow when a student demonstrates COVID-like symptoms, has been potentially exposed to the virus or has tested positive for the virus. The District will follow these [guidelines](#) for the safety of our students, staff and community.

If my student becomes ill and/or has to quarantine due to illness in the household, what plans are in place to maintain student's progress in their education?

This process would be similar to any other time a student is out sick. The classroom teacher would provide homework and assignments for the student to complete per the District sick day policy. Students have an additional day for each day they are absent to turn in work upon return to school.

If the whole class is required to quarantine, the classroom teacher would transition to a remote learning model. If the teacher is not ill, the teacher will transition to teaching remotely. If the teacher is unable to hold instruction, a substitute teacher will be secured to provide remote instruction.

If my child has to quarantine, but is not infected with COVID-19, will this be an excused absence?

Yes.

If a member of the family was exposed to someone with COVID, does my child need to quarantine?

The Will County Department of Public Health will be consulted in this situation to determine protocol.

How will the District be contact tracing?

District nurses have participated in the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course from John Hopkins University. They will be collaborating with the Will County Department of Public Health to report data and will follow all protocols set forth by the IDPH.

Will the District require a student or staff member quarantine for two weeks if he or she travels to a COVID hot spot?

The information regarding COVID-19 hot spot locations within the United States and the World change rapidly. Therefore, the Will County Department of Public Health will be consulted in this situation to determine protocol.

What will happen if my child becomes sick with COVID-like symptoms at school?

The student will be evaluated by the school nurse. If in fact symptoms are present, the student will be monitored in the school's Isolation Room until the child can be taken home.

What happens if my child is sick, but not with COVID-like symptoms, while at school?

The school nurse will evaluate the student. If in fact the student is ill, the student will be monitored in the school office until the child can be taken home.

Can the District require a student be tested for COVID if the virus is suspected?

The District cannot legally require a parent have a child tested for COVID. The District will be following the IDPH guidelines regarding returning to school if a student is suspected of having or confirmed to have COVID.

If my student becomes ill and has to quarantine, what will his/her classmates be told?

If a student is required to isolate or quarantine at home, this will not be discussed within the classroom. Just as with other contagious diseases, families will be notified as required. As always, keeping the confidentiality of our student's privacy will be maintained.

If my student is in class or on the bus with a student who tests positive for the virus, how will I be notified?

As part of the Contact Tracing protocol, you will receive a call from the school or the IDPH with information related to quarantine requirements.

If a school nurse is absent, will there be a substitute registered nurse in his or her place?

The District has both substitute nurses and contracts with nursing agencies to fill vacancies at our schools. In the event a District nurse is absent, we will either hire a substitute nurse or contact the agency and use an available nurse to fill that position.

Will the District be installing Plexiglas barriers throughout the building?

Plexiglas barriers have been installed in some main areas of our buildings such as front offices.

When a COVID vaccine is available, will the District make this a requirement for students?

Vaccination requirements in Illinois are made by the state not local school districts.

Cleaning Questions

What type of cleaning will take place in the school buildings?

The District is implementing several measures to promote a safe and clean environment for students and staff. Classrooms will be supplied with bottles of disinfecting spray and paper towels to aid in sanitation efforts throughout the day. The District will use EPA approved solution of hypochlorous acid that is safe around students and strong enough to kill the virus. Throughout the school day, the maintenance team will be increasing their time disinfecting identified high-touch areas and common areas for contamination. To assist with this task, E-Mist electrostatic ionization machines have been purchased to increase efficiency and effectiveness of disinfecting during the day and as part of the nightly cleaning routine.

What will hand washing/sanitizing look like at school?

Frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be take place throughout the school day. Each school will handle hand washing/sanitizing differently, as they all function on slightly different schedules. Hand sanitizers will be available in every classroom and in all common areas of the school.

Can my child bring his/her own sanitizer and hand wipes to school?

Yes.

Will each classroom have their own UV/Air purifier?

No, this is not required per the IDPH. Per the Illinois School Code, all school buildings must adhere to strict HVAC requirements. Our District has consistently passed all compliance inspections by local and state authorities.

Transportation Questions

How many students will be on each school bus and seat?

A maximum of 50 people will be permitted on each school bus, inclusive of school personnel. Only two children will be permitted in each seat. Siblings will sit together if riding the same route. Students will be assigned a seat on the bus. Based on the parent survey, we expect less students riding the bus each day.

Will the buses be cleaned daily?

Yes, buses will be deep cleaned each night and high-touch areas such as railing and seat backs will be cleaned between routes.

How will masks be enforced on the bus?

Students will not be permitted on the bus without a face covering. If they arrive at the bus stop without one, a disposable mask will be provided to them.

If a student is not compliant with wearing a mask on the bus, the driver will have the authority to issue a warning to the child and inform the school principal of the situation. If a student refuses to comply after being issued a warning, he or she will not be permitted to ride the bus.

How will the District manage the car lines for parents who are opting out of bus service? How will carpools be managed? Will they be allowed?

The District will have personnel available to assist students from exiting a vehicle safely while working to keep car lines moving. Yes, carpools will be allowed and encouraged to reduce the number of students requiring bus transportation. We recommend that students wear masks while in the car unless all students are from the same household.

Social-Emotional Questions

What is in place for students as they return to school after experiencing this pandemic?

The District is acutely aware of the fact that our students may have experienced a myriad of challenges during this pandemic period, which include missed milestones, limited extended-family connections, canceled vacations and special occasions, economic instability, family illness and even the death of loved ones. The District is committed to helping our students overcome the trauma and challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Regulating emotions, managing stress, empathizing with others, and maintaining relationships are all social-emotional skills that will be taught, modeled and practiced throughout a student's experience in 157-C schools. In an effort to help students reinvigorate their state-of-mind to learn when school reopens, teachers and social workers will be devoting more time to the social curriculum at each grade at the start of this school year.

What is in place to prevent negative peer interventions upon return from COVID-19 illness?

The District has developed lessons and activities that teach and promote positive behavior. Appropriate steps will be taken per each school's behavior and discipline procedures to address negative peer interactions. The overall emphasis is on safety, respect and responsible decision-making.

Extra-Curricular Program Questions

Will the schools be offering band, orchestra and chorus?

The District is planning for these musical groups to run this year in a modified fashion. More information will be provided to students and families in late fall. The District is also working to include some virtual options for remote learners to participate in band, orchestra and chorus.

Will competitive athletic teams run this year at Hickory Creek Middle School?

The District is intending to host competitive sport teams once we receive guidance and approval from IESA.

Will after school clubs run this year?

The District is planning to run some clubs at Chelsea and Hickory Creek on a modified basis. Information will be shared with families well in advance to the start of any club. The District is also working to include some virtual options for remote learners to participate in clubs.

General Questions

Will fees be different for in-person/remote learning?

At a special Board of Education meeting in May, the Board approved a new fee schedule. General registration fees for all students have been waived this year.

For in-person instruction, will the school day hours remain the same? Will students attend Monday-Friday?

Students who select in-person instruction will attend school Monday-Friday and follow the normal school schedule.

May I pick up my child during the lunch hour?

Yes. A parent/guardian may always pick a child up during the lunch hour.

Why are middle school students not changing into PE uniforms?

Lockers will not be utilized until we are in Phase 5 of Restore Illinois. For this reason, changing for P.E. will not take place.

If students are eating in their classrooms instead of the cafeteria, how will food allergies be addressed? Will students be instructed to 'not' share food with classmates?

Students have never been allowed to share food with each other. Students will wash/sanitize their hands before and after lunch. Students will eat in their individual spaces and these areas will be cleaned after lunch. Individual students who may require additional support beyond these cleaning and distancing measures will be addressed through an individualized health care plan.

In the event of another school shutdown, what should my student be bringing home from school daily?

If we are mandated to return to a fully remote school environment, we hope to have more advanced notice than we did in March. If we anticipate another school closure, we will notify parents regarding what their children should bring home.

If students will not be using lockers, where will coats and boots be kept during the day?

Students should pack as lightly as possible for school, and only take what they can carry or put in their backpacks. Once the weather requires heavier coats, locker use will be allowed for the use of coats. Social distancing while using lockers will be applied as needed.

If we dis-enroll our child and want him/her to come back to the District at a later time, will that be permitted mid-year?

Yes. Parents always have the option to dis-enroll and re-enroll their child into a District 157-C school permitted they live within District boundaries. Re-enrollment will take place at the quarter grading breaks.

If I start my child with in-person learning and then I decide to keep my child at home for remote learning, can I do this at any time?

Yes. Parents will have the option to choose Remote Learning at any time. Re-enrollment to in-person learning will take place at the quarter grading breaks.

Optional Remote Learning Questions

Will attendance be taken every day?

Yes.

Is the supply list the same for in-person and remote learning?

Other than hand sanitizer, masks and personal care items like tissues, etc. the school supply list is the same for both remote and in-person learning.

During the trial weeks of September 21 and 28, what will my student's remote schedule include on the day the other students are attending school in person?

Students who choose the Optional Remote Learning plan will begin their day with a morning meeting, attendance and pledge with their assigned classroom and teacher. Students will then access pre-recorded lessons and independent activities throughout the day. Students will be introduced to their new remote teacher during these two days to begin their transition to the full Optional Remote Learning plan that will begin on Monday, October 5, 2020.

How will remote learning look different for my student who will not be attending school in-person when the Districts opens?

Students who choose the Optional Remote Learning plan will be assigned a new remote teacher. A new daily schedule will be provided that will include live teaching for all core subject areas. Physical Education and Encore classes will be delivered via one pre-recorded lesson a week along with a series of weekly independent activities.

When will the school day start and end for remote learning? Can I have my child complete the work in the evening if that works best for our family?

The school day will begin with a morning meeting, attendance and pledge with their assigned classroom and teacher. Remote learning will follow a defined schedule with defined activities that involve teacher and group interactions using a remote learning platform. It will be important for the child to adhere to the live teaching sessions as much as possible. However, there will be video recordings and other independent assignments that a child may watch or work on at any time. Thus, there is some degree of flexibility for when the child completes class work.

Will District 157-C teachers be the remote learning instructors?

Yes. Teachers instructing remotely will be certified District 157-C teachers.

If I choose to enroll my child in the Optional Remote Learning Plan and decide, it is not the right fit, why can I not switch him/her back to an in-person classroom at any time?

Sectioning for classrooms is a complex and time-consuming process. To avoid swings in classroom structure/class sizes and sectioning allocations, requests to return to in-person learning from a remote setting will be **limited to the quarter grading breaks**. Parents will need to contact the school office to make this request.

How much live, remote instruction can I expect?

The amount of live instruction will vary by grade level. Learning online is different from learning in a classroom. There are things to consider like the age level of students, cognitive load, and content. Live instruction will occur at scheduled times during the school day. Remote learning teachers will provide a weekly schedule outlining the student's daily school schedule.

How much time can preschool parents expect to have live/independent instruction?

Preschool students may expect 30 minutes of live instruction per day. They will also be provided activities to be completed by the child at home with the assistance of an adult.

Will my child receive feedback and grades?

All students will be provided feedback and support for all work completed. In Pre-K through Second grade, teachers will use *SEESAW* to communicate progress on student work and assessments. In grades three through eighth, teachers will use *Microsoft One Note Teams* to communicate progress on student work and assessments. Grades will be reported in PowerSchool. Traditional report cards will be utilized for all grade levels.

What happens if my child's remote learning teacher becomes sick?

The teacher will be expected to provide lesson plans for the day for students to complete independently. In the event the teacher was absent for more than one day, a substitute teacher would be assigned to the remote learning class until the permanent teacher returns.

What will a middle school remote schedule look like? Will students go from class to class as they would in-person?

The middle school schedule will align as much as possible with the in-person school day. Students will attend their four core classes daily (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies). Optional learning opportunities for Encore and PE will be provided weekly. Grades will be given for the four core subjects, not for Encore and PE.

Will students receive Advanced and Honors placement in the remote learning setting?

Any student who qualifies will receive Advanced/Honors ELA and math instruction in the remote learning setting. The remote learning teacher will provide opportunities for differentiation of content and rigor. The remote learning teacher will be given the autonomy to modify assignments to meet each student's unique needs. Any student who qualifies for Advanced or Honors will maintain their Advanced/Honors placement in the event they return to in-person learning.

How will the FastBridge assessment be administered for students who elect remote learning?

The FastBridge assessments are administered on a computer. As such, we intend to give all students in first through eighth the FastBridge assessment regardless of which learning option they selected. Parents will be required to bring their child into school by appointment to complete the FastBridge assessment. A private testing area will be set up in each school during the testing window.

If my child participates in a remote learning experience, can he or she use some paper materials (like real books) as part of this learning experience?

All of the same paper/printed/tangible materials made available to students learning in-person will be made available to remote learners. Material pick-up information will be provided to parents when available.

What is the threshold to be given remote learning opportunities when out for an absence due to illness or quarantine? How many days can a child be out of the classroom before remote learning begins?

Transitioning from an in-person to a remote learning environment due to COVID, quarantine, or isolation measures will typically occur when the child is anticipated to be unable to participate in in-person learning for 14 or more days.

Can my child participate in extra-curricular programs at school?

Yes. The District is planning to run some extra-curricular programs at Chelsea and Hickory Creek on a modified basis. These may include, band, orchestra, chorus, and various clubs and student group activities. Information will be shared with families well in advance to the start of any club. A student may choose to come to school for these programs, as long as he/she is following the IDPH guidelines for in-person activities. The District is also working to include some virtual options for remote learners to participate in clubs at home.

Special Education Questions

Will students with special education needs be able to receive services if they choose remote learning?

Yes. Students will receive their special education and related services. Services will be provided remotely, with a possible option of in-person services at a district school. For students with disabilities the child's case manager will contact their parent/guardian to develop an individualized remote learning plan to focus on goals and objectives developed in the IEP.

How will IEP and Section 504 Plan accommodations be implemented?

Student's services and accommodations will be provided. Individual adjustments and modifications may be addressed through the IEP and Section 504 processes, as needed, per each student.

If I choose to dis-enroll my child from school and homeschool instead, is my child entitled to special education services through District 157-C?

Yes. Below is the 2020-21 proportionate share agreement for students who are homeschool (dis-enrolled from District 157-C). Parent provides all other instruction.

- ✓ Up to 60 minutes per week of speech and language services, OR
- ✓ Up to 60 minutes per week of special education resource services, OR
- ✓ Up to 60 minutes per week of occupational therapy services, OR
- ✓ A combination of speech/language, occupational therapy and/or special education resource services up to a total of 60 minutes per week for all services

All services are provided at 157-C schools, within the standard school day hours.