

Washington D52 Return to Learning Plan



Working Together Achieving Excellence* Every Day*

Guide to Returning to School Based on Guidance from ISBE, IDPH, & CDC

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Summary

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, Washington Grade School District 52 has been working on our Return to Learning Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The district prepared educational plans and operational protocols, based on the guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH), and the recommendations from Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Over the summer, the district administered two surveys to all parents in the district, in which they could provide feedback about spring remote learning and the reopening of school. A District Transition Team was formed and held a series of whole group and committee meetings. The committees focused on health & wellness, instruction, and operations & maintenance in order to plan for fall 2020 and follow our priorities:

Priority 1: Safety, health, and welfare of students & staff

Priority 2: Communicate Clearly

Priority 3: Student Learning

This guide outlines the educational plans and protocols in place for the entire school year. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, it is possible that plans and protocols outlined in this document may need to be adjusted as guidelines in our state evolve.

Health and Wellness

Social and Physical Distancing

WGSD52 has developed procedures to observe social distancing of six feet, as much as possible. This expectation pertains to students and staff members in all areas and settings to the greatest extent possible. **Inside classrooms, we will use the pod system of seating assignments in order to reduce the possible number of exposures.** Visual reminders will be posted throughout LGS and WMS as reminders. Students will remain with their grade level cohort to reduce mixing grade levels within the building as much as possible. Staff and students should abstain from physical contact, including but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc.

PPE and Face coverings

D52 realizes physical distancing will not be possible for all circumstances. All individuals in school buildings must wear face coverings at all times, unless they are younger than two years of age or have a physician's note on file in the office.

Hygiene

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff and students must use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom each time. Hand sanitizer will be placed in common areas throughout each building and in classrooms. Each building will place signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in bathrooms, hallways and common areas.

Health Screenings

Only students and staff who are healthy should report for in-person learning. It is important to note that students will not be penalized for missing school and are encouraged to stay home when not feeling well. Students and staff with any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 must remain home.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Before coming to school, all students must be certified by parents/guardians by completing the symptoms/exposure screener using Skyward. Upon entering the building each day, staff and students will be screened for symptoms and temperatures will be taken. Any child with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be moved to a private isolation area and will be required to be picked up from school immediately. Staff members will remain in the isolation area until they are able to leave. These individuals must self-monitor and return to school according to the

IDPH guidelines. A doctor's note may be required for staff returning to work. Staff who has had contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 must notify their building principal or supervisor immediately. Students who have had contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 must follow the IDPH guidelines for self-monitoring and self-quarantine.

Visitors

Access to school buildings will be limited to only staff members and students. Visitors will need to conduct their business remotely and drop off will be limited to external access points of the buildings. Volunteers will not be allowed in the buildings during phase 4.

Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick

Washington Grade School District 52 will communicate with families and staff that any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness, should stay home. Students who become sick with COVID-19 or are required to quarantine due to exposure are able to access remote learning for the duration of the quarantine. Families and staff should also report possible cases to the school where the individual attends school or works, to initiate contact tracing. Attendance personnel should request specific symptom reporting when absences are reported, along with COVID-19 diagnoses and COVID-19 exposure. Information will be documented and shared with the health staff or other appropriate personnel and the Tazewell County Health Department. In accordance with state and federal guidance, school community members who are sick should not return to school until they have met the criteria to return.

CDC and IDPH guidelines for students who were suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, state that 72 hours must elapse from the resolution of fever without fever reducing medication and 14 days must pass after symptoms first appeared. It is recommended that medically fragile and immunocompromised students consult their medical provider prior to attending school. Any individual within the school environment who shows symptoms will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. Individuals who are sick will be sent home.

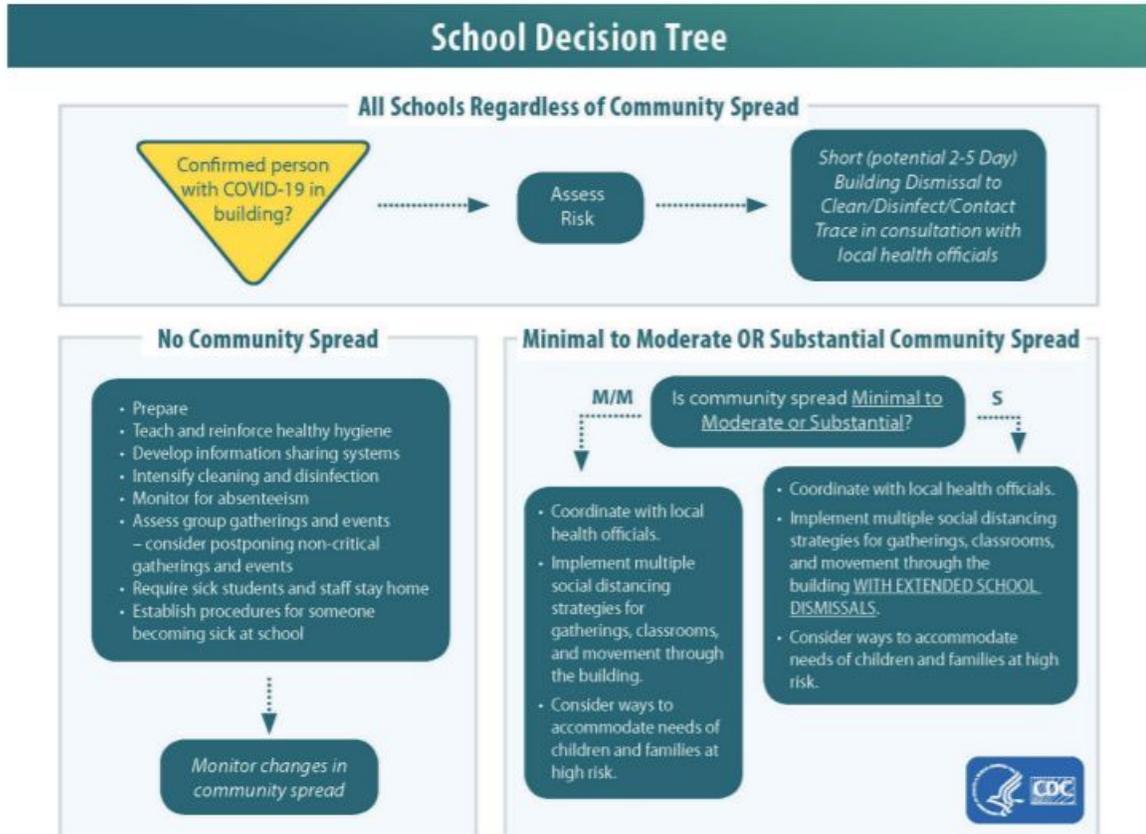
When interacting with students or staff who may be sick, school nurses and personnel should follow CDC guidance on standard and transmission based precautions. Students should never be left alone and must always be supervised while maintaining necessary precautions.

Close off any areas of the school used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after proper cleaning and disinfection procedures have been completed. Open windows to increase air circulation in the area. It is advised by the CDC to wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting; if 24 hours are not possible, wait as long as possible. Clean and disinfect all areas, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment, etc., used by the person who is sick. Ensure cleaning products are stored and used a safe distance away from children and staff.

Individuals who did not have close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection. Those who had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 infection should isolate at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Close contact means the individual was within six feet of the individual with symptoms for more than 15 minutes. Additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary if more than seven days have elapsed since the person who is sick visited or used the school. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. **The following protocol document will be used to assist in the decision making of individual cases.**

School Closure Plan (guidance from CDC)

Washington Grade School District 52 must be prepared for a possible short-term closure, regardless of community spread, if an infected person has been in a school building. If this happens, the CDC recommends the following procedures regardless of the level of community spread.



Instruction

Washington Grade School District 52 has developed an instructional plan to allow for a return to in person learning for students, while holding paramount the health and safety of our students and community. Students may enter the upcoming school year with academic knowledge that varies more greatly between students than in previous school years. Teachers will use targeted interventions and differentiated instruction to help individual students reach their learning goals. For those families that would prefer remote learning, this option will also be offered throughout phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan.

In-Person Learning

In-person instruction will take place at LGS and WMS five days per week with a **five** hour day for each building. The reduction in the hours of the day allows for two main items. 1) reduce the amount of time students have to wear a mask 2) allow for teachers to hold meetings with those students/families who choose remote learning. **All** classes will operate under a “bubble concept” where homeroom students primarily stay in their classrooms and **specials will mostly take place in a remote setting**. Exceptions to this will be P.E., **WMS students will have in-person P.E. every day and LGS students will have it every other day.**

	Student Earliest Arrival	Start Time	Dismissal Time	Remote Meeting Sessions (M,T, Th,F)*
LGS	8:05 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	2: 15 -3:50 p.m.
WMS	7:30 a.m.	7:55 a.m.	12:55 p.m.	1:40 -3:15 p.m.

*Remote Meeting Sessions are primarily for remote learners

Remote Learning

We understand some families may not feel comfortable sending their children to school. All will have the opportunity to indicate if they would like to opt out of in person learning and choose to remain home for all Remote Learning. Any family that chooses to enroll in the Remote Learning option will do so for the entire grading period (trimester). Families will be allowed to change to in-person learning at the end of these grading periods.

The following includes details on Remote Learning this school year. Families that choose Remote Learning, instead of in-person learning, for their child will need to read, understand, and agree to the following procedures:

- Remote Learning will be different from the Remote Learning that occurred at the **beginning of the 20-21 school year**. The online curriculum is a stand-alone curriculum called Edgenuity-it will not be created by the District 52 teachers and sent to your child. This is a separate online learning platform where learning needs will be met through the online portal, including parental support.

- The students will still be assigned a homeroom teacher from District 52. This teacher will provide support to remote learners as needed and keep track of work completion. District 52 teachers will also supplement the online platform as needed.
- Families must have reliable Internet at home to participate in Remote Learning.
- Any family that chooses to enroll in the Remote Learning option will do so for the entire grading period (trimester). Families will be allowed to change to in-person learning at the end of these grading periods (1st trimester ends November 6, 2020). Parents will need to indicate through online registration if their child will be participating in Remote Learning. Towards the end of each trimester, parents will be asked if their child will continue Remote Learning or return to in-person learning for the following trimester.
- Remote Learning will require a parent, tutor, caregiver, etc. to assist students with their daily work, especially for K-5 students. Students will need a quiet workspace at home.
- Edgenuity offers a comprehensive K-8 virtual curriculum in Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.
- The activities/tasks in the online learning platform will take approximately 30-45 minutes per subject per day to complete to stay on track for each course. This time may vary based on the student.
- Edgenuity includes built-in, ongoing assessment to check learning progress. A report indicating student learning/progress will be provided for Remote Learners at the end of each trimester.
- Remote Learners will be able to use a chromebook provided by District 52 to access the online curriculum. There will also be technology support available for parents and students to access.
- Remote Learners will be enrolled as District 52 students and will have access to District 52 online and hard copy instructional materials (e.g. IXL account, handwriting workbook, etc). Registration fees will be the same as students who participate in in-person learning.
- Remote Learners will be asked to participate in District 52 benchmark assessments during the trimesters in which they are learning remotely. STAR tests help guide the instruction provided by Edgenuity. Arrangements can be made for a Remote Learner to come in and take a STAR test when other students are not in the building or students can take the test at home while being monitored virtually by a District 52 staff member. Students will participate in state standardized assessments (IAR, ISA, ACCESS) if they occur in 2021. District 52 will make arrangements for Remote Learners to attend on assessment days.
- If Remote Learners are not successful (do not engage or pass the courses), District 52 may not recommend Remote Learning for the next trimester. This will be determined on a case by case basis.
- Remote Learners in Grades 6-8 will be able to participate in athletics or other activities if they occur. Parents will be responsible for providing transportation.

For more information on Edgenuity:
[Grades 6-8 Courseware Program Information](#)
[Grades 6-8 Courseware Program-student view](#)
[Grades K-5 Pathblazer Flyer](#)

Remote Learning for Quarantine Students

Students who fall into the category of **precautionary quarantine** and are healthy enough to participate in school will be assigned activities in Edgenuity and asynchronous lessons. These students will complete the lessons assigned and will not be marked absent.

Students who are sent home with symptoms of illness and /or are COVID positive will be marked absent unless otherwise notified by guardians.

All School Closure Remote Learning

If the entire school re-enters remote learning, students who have chosen the all-remote option will continue on their Edgenuity learning path.

Students who were in-person learning will be following the synchronous/asynchronous schedule utilized at the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Safety Education for Students

Students will be receiving grade level appropriate education and guidance for proper physical distancing, proper use of PPE, and proper hand hygiene during the first two (2) weeks of school. Each school will develop a plan for providing students with building specific safety measures to follow with an explanation as to why these measures are important.

Music-Related Courses

Music related education will follow the most current IDPH/ISBE guidelines for student and staff safety measures. During phase 4, this will include utilizing outdoor spaces when possible. Instrumental music teachers will work with students in smaller sectional groups while additionally using clear partitions when needed. Students will need to wear face coverings if singing indoors. Students must wear face coverings while singing. It is permissible for band members to remove their mask during the time they are playing, but only if necessary.

Physical Education, Gymnasiums, and Locker Rooms

Physical activity can support students' overall health and help reduce stress and anxiety. Whenever feasible and weather permitting, schools should select outdoor PE activities that allow physical distancing. If physical education must be taught inside, teachers will utilize markings on the gymnasium floor/wall/field to maintain distance between participants. Handshaking, high fives, or other physical contact is prohibited. It is recommended that PE teachers use a megaphone or microphone to maximize physical distancing. The use of shared equipment is not recommended. Any shared equipment must be cleaned between each use and disinfected at the end of each class. Students and staff must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer at the start and end of each class period or when hands are visibly dirty. Students must perform hand hygiene after the use of each piece of equipment. WMS will eliminate the need for use of locker rooms, as well as allowing students to participate in activities without changing clothing.

Extracurriculars

Extracurricular activities must follow the IDPH requirements set forth for the school setting, which include social distancing, appropriate use of PPE, limiting the number of individuals in

one space to 10 individuals during Phase 3 and to 50 or fewer in Phase 4, and cleaning and disinfecting to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Athletics will follow the guidelines provided by the IESA.

Transportation

We are working to ensure procedures are in compliance with all applicable expectations under state and federal guidelines. All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering, no more than 50 individuals will be on a bus at one time, and social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Students and families should be aware of procedures and expectations regarding transportation. If your child is showing any signs or symptoms of illness, please keep them at home.

Drivers will wear approved and appropriate PPE and perform regular hand hygiene. Before the start of each workday, drivers and monitors will undergo symptom and temperature checks to verify that they are free of symptoms. Drivers and monitors who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or symptoms of COVID-19 will not work. Drivers who become ill during their route will contact their supervisor immediately.

The CDC recommends that entities should “create distance between children on school buses ...when possible.” No more than 50 individuals may be on a vehicle at any one time during Phase 4. The district will provide visual guides to ensure that students comply with expectations. Seating arrangements with respect to social distancing can be adjusted for students who live in a household with other students. Students will be monitored at school loading and unloading zones. IEP or 504 teams should meet to determine individual transportation needs for students who require special accommodations.

Student transportation vehicles will be sanitized each day. Seats and high touch areas will also be sanitized between routes. Sanitizing products will meet the EPA criteria and be used according to manufacturers' guidelines.

Operations

Food Services

Student lunches will mainly take place in the classrooms to stay within the bubbling concept. Additional serving and/or seating areas may be established to promote social distancing. Access to serving areas will be staggered where possible to promote social distancing. Groups will be limited to the maximum gathering size per the Restore Illinois plan.

Meals will be individually plated or packaged as grab and go items. Non-disposable food service items will be handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Areas where students consume meals will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Food service personnel will use appropriate PPE, including gloves and face coverings, while preparing and distributing food.

Hand hygiene will be promoted prior to and after eating a meal or consuming any food items, and hand sanitizer will be available at food service locations. Mealtime expectations will be shared with students and staff.

Facilities

Sanitation, hygiene, and PPE supplies will be ordered and stockpiled for employee access. All custodial/maintenance staff will be trained on the return to school guidelines, where applicable. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts using certified EPA products in both low/high contact areas including:

- Countertops
- Desktops
- Door handles
- Bottle fillers
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Restroom fixtures

Building custodians and cleaning personnel will conduct daily cleaning and disinfection. An EPA approved cleaner will be used for disinfection along with our standard cleaning protocols. All frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs, desktops/tabletops, countertops, light switches, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, phones, toys, cubbies/coat and backpack areas, sinks and faucets) will be cleaned on a regular basis. Restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and high touch common areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Soft surfaces such as carpets and rugs will be cleaned daily. Items such as cloth toys or other cloth material items that cannot be disinfected must not be used.

Maintenance may adjust personnel schedules to meet reopening school needs. Cleaning schedules will be created and implemented for all facilities and equipment. Extra sanitation efforts will occur during in-class learning which will address high traffic/common areas.

- Entryways
- Foyers
- Hallways
- Main offices
- Restrooms
- Stairwells

Extended Care Program (ECP)

Enrollment in extended care will be limited to the maximum amount allowed by guidelines.

Visitors and the use of school facilities by external parties will be discouraged as much as possible, but some programs, such as child care, are critical to the community. ECP will follow the IDPH and DCFS guidance for licensed child care facilities. Child care programs in schools will be required to follow all infection control measures that are used during the school day (e.g., social distancing when possible, face coverings, cleaning, and sanitation).

Health Offices

All school health offices will:

- Limit the number of individuals allowed in at one time.
- Provide a supervised quarantine space for students/staff who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and may be awaiting evaluation and/or pickup. Students must never be left alone and must be supervised at all times while maintaining necessary precautions within the quarantine space.
- Disinfect a space after it is occupied by a student and deep clean daily.
- Require students exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms wear a face covering unless medically contraindicated.
- Per CDC guidance, close off areas used by a sick person; do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting. Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Supply school nurses and/or the administrator/designee working with individuals with illness symptoms with appropriate PPE. School nurses should use PPE, including gloves and face coverings, when interacting with students and staff. Appropriate PPE should be used in conjunction with appropriate hand hygiene and standard precautions.
- Require personal care aides working with medically fragile students wear PPE (e.g., face shields, face masks, and gloves).
- Implement strategies to reduce unnecessary visits from students, staff, and visitors; reduce health office congestion; reduce exposure to infection, and allow for separation.
- Supply staff with first aid supplies, such as bandages and gauze, in the classrooms. In certain situations, students may need to stay in place for an in-person evaluation by the school nurse.
- Treat healthy students reporting to the health office for medical management, such as medications, assessment of injury, or first aid, in a separate clean designated area inside or outside the health office to prevent contact with potentially ill children.
- Perform daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces in the health office with a disinfectant noted to kill the coronavirus.

Persons with common health conditions or those who need basic first aid should not report to the health office but may be managed in the classroom/alternate setting.

Parents, guardians, or other authorized individuals should pick up ill students within a reasonable amount of time; students should not be allowed to utilize the school bus or public transportation for the return home.

In the absence of a nurse, each school district's administrators must determine who will be responsible for meeting the health-related needs of students and staff.

Recommendations for Families

- Please make sure all emergency contact information is up to date.
- All students should stay home if they are sick, with any illness symptoms.
- The CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season with rare exceptions. Flu symptoms overlap with coronavirus symptoms.
- When reporting illness absences, be sure to report if your child is
 - Is a close contact of someone with a positive COVID 19 test
 - Has signs of coronavirus
 - Has been diagnosed with coronavirus
 - Has been diagnosed with influenza (respiratory flu).
- For students with asthma, no nebulizer treatments will be given at school during the pandemic. Asthma action plans should reflect the use of asthma inhalers and spacers.
- Please send your child with extra clothing in case a change is necessary as there will be no clothing stored in the nurse's office.

What to expect if there is a confirmed case in school

- We will immediately notify local health officials. They will help administrators better determine a course of action for the school.
- Persons identified as being in close contact with the individual will be asked to stay home and isolate and be alert for symptoms for Covid-19.

Returning to school after having had coronavirus:

- Please call the school nurse prior to returning to school.
- Students will stay home for at least 14 days and must be fever free for 72 hours after symptoms have resolved OR have two negative Covid-19 tests in a row, with testing done at least 24 hours apart.
- ***As new guidance emerges, guidelines may change.***

Communications

Communication Methods

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, Washington Grade School District 52 will utilize the following communication methods to keep stakeholders up to date on changes regarding all protocols:

- WGSD52 Website
- Phone and text alerts
- E-mail Alerts
- WGSD52 Social Media (Facebook & Twitter)

All parents/guardians who wish to receive communication should make sure email addresses and phone numbers are up to date in Skyward

QUICK CONTACTS: Who do I contact if...

- I have questions/concerns about Distance Learning:
 - First point of contact is the teacher, second point of contact is principal
- My student tests positive for COVID-19: School Office/ Nurse
- I am a staff member who tests positive for COVID-19: Superintendent's Office
- I have questions/concerns about transportation: Amanda Millard
d52amill@d52schools.com
- My student needs tech support during Distance Learning: Tech support is available for WGSD52 devices and systems via email for students and teachers at support@d52schools.com