

2021-22 RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



INTRODUCTION

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the reestablishment of our school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions. This Return to School Plan addresses adjustments needed in response to

evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. The Return to Learn plan was put on display on July 21st via our website, with the ability for public comments through July 25, 2021. The plan will be formally approved on July 26, 2021. **School strategies in this plan may be removed or adjusted based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools, and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed.**

The guidance referenced in this plan is based on guidance from the ARP Act, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and Bureau Valley administration.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our stakeholders, the following guiding principles have been put in place:

1. CONTINUED FULL IN-PERSON LEARNING
2. EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SAFETY MEASURES
3. HEALTH GUIDELINES

Priorities	How they are addressed/considered
In-Person Learning	This plan allows for full in-person learning, while also trying to remain safe and cautious. This plan would also allow for a transition to an emergency day if needed.
Student & Staff Safety	We will follow IDPH guidelines.
Social-Emotional Health of Students & Staff	This plan provides students and staff with the greatest potential for social-emotional connection and health.
Academic Achievement	The curriculum will be able to be covered in full. In-person learning will be available for all students.
Ability to be agile	In this modality, we can easily flip to the whole group or individual Remote Learning if necessary. This also allows students who do not qualify for the vaccine and/or quarantined to easily transition into Remote Learning.

PLAN REVIEW

Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC and made publicly available on the district's website.

DISTRICT WIDE SOLUTION FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, all Bureau Valley CUSD #340 schools will be fully open for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year. Absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education and/or the Illinois Governor's Office, Bureau Valley CUSD #340 schools will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated (July 9, 2021) Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools, also adopted by the IDPH on July 9, 2021. These guidelines include the following:

Within this solution, in-person instruction would look like:

- Pre-K-12th grade students will be required to attend daily in-person learning in the Fall of 2021-2022. Students will be in school from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. School doors will open at 7:15 a.m.
- **The district anticipates that the school year will begin with masks being strongly recommended, but not required, indoors for students, staff, and visitors who are not fully vaccinated.**
 - **Per CDC Guidance, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses at all times. Extra masks will be available on each bus and building office.**
 - Staff are to model support for and encourage students to be supportive of people who continue to wear a mask as a personal choice or because of a personal medical reason.
 - We will continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students and staff and adjust accordingly if needed. Everyone should be prepared to wear masks if our local metrics warrant that need.
- Students attending other serving schools (B.E.S.T., Camelot, etc.), Whiteside Area Career Center (W.A.C.C.), The Academy, or the high school Co-op program will follow the schedules, safety protocols, and other guidelines of the serving schools and places of employment. District transportation will be required to other serving schools and W.A.C.C. unless permission is granted by the building principal.
- Quarantine procedures will still be in effect for students and staff that are positive cases, close contacts to positive cases or are symptomatic. However, CDC/IDPH guidance provides that "people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19." While vaccinating against the COVID-19 virus remains a personal decision, the above statement reminds us that students and staff are more susceptible to quarantine protocol and procedures when not vaccinated.
- The district will be in continuous contact with the Bureau County Health Department for guidance and reporting purposes.
- Preventative measures will attempt to keep supplies with only one student.
- School staff and students will commit to at least 3 feet of social distancing to the greatest extent possible within schools at all times.
- Lockers will be available for student use at scheduled times throughout the day.
- Typical in-person instructional practices will take place (whole group, small group, peer instruction, etc.) with social distancing when possible.

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- Students will attend Art and Music in the Special's classroom.
- Recess will be allowed with the use of playground equipment.
- Locker rooms will be used for physical education and after school activities.
- Counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any well-being needs.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the Cafeteria. Student meals will be free for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with USDA reimbursements.
- Students will not have access to drinking fountains but may bring a water bottle
- Students in grades 3-12 will continue to have and utilize assigned Chromebooks. K-2 students will have devices in the classroom.
- Using a current COVID-19 symptom list, parents will self-certify their child(ren's) health before getting on the bus or coming to school; all school employees will self-certify their own health before entering buildings or transportation.
- Each school will designate a safe area to quarantine any individuals who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms until a parent arrives.
- Buildings will continue to undergo extensive cleaning/sanitation throughout the year. School areas will be deep cleaned when an individual is removed due to COVID-19 symptoms.
- Signage will be posted throughout all buildings to remind students, staff, and visitors of current COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.
- To receive credit and attendance for the coursework for this school year, students are expected to complete the assignments and follow in-person protocols as directed.
 - Students not making progress, not completing schoolwork, or opting not to participate in assigned work or in-person learning, may be eligible for summer school. For promotion to the next grade level or passing of the course, students must complete the requirements outlined in the grading policy.
- Students receiving special education services shall receive an appropriate public education that addresses individual needs (time out of general education classroom, specialized instruction, etc.).
- To temporarily utilize remote learning, a student must be under quarantine by a local health department or the IDPH. Students may not utilize remote learning for personal days off, vacation, or short illnesses. School administration must approve remote learning use.
 - Remote learning will be facilitated through the district's learning platforms and will be provided in differing formats. Teachers will have autonomy based on content and daily lesson plan.
- Homeschooled students are not enrolled in the Bureau Valley district. The district does not provide instruction or curriculum materials, and the student will be required to take a placement test upon return to the district to determine if they are promoted and/or given graduation credits. Homeschooled students will not participate in district extracurricular activities (athletics, clubs, organizations, etc.).

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- Bureau Valley uses multiple platforms (email, website, social media, etc.) to communicate with families and students. Please check that your contact information is up-to-date in TeacherEase in order to receive these communications.
- Students may participate in extracurricular activities per guidelines established by IDPH, Illinois High School Association (IHSA), and Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA).
- Mitigation Metrics will be developed in coordination with the Bureau County Health Department to monitor the District's mitigation levels and adjust accordingly.

[Public Comment Survey](#)