



RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

Carmi-White County Unit #5

2020-2021

Carmi-White County CUSD #5 has been working on a plan for reopening our schools for the 2020-2021 school year. This document provides educational plans and operational protocols, based on guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH), and the Egyptian Health Department.

In addition, the district administered a survey to all parents in the district, in which they could provide feedback about Face-to-Face instruction and Remote Learning for students. A Transition Team comprised of district administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and representatives from the Egyptian Health Department and White County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) met to discuss and get feedback regarding returning to school in the fall.

This guide outlines the educational plans and protocols in place for the start of the school year. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, it is possible the district could return to Remote Learning. (A Remote Learning Plan is being developed that will be more intensive than what was used last spring.) It is important to note that the health and well-being of students and staff are of the utmost importance. While school may look a little different, the district's commitment to providing a quality education for all students remains the same.

We are currently in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan, therefore IDPH guidelines will:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
- Require an increase in school-wide cleaning and disinfection.

All public and nonpublic schools in Illinois serving pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students must follow these guidelines. THESE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Back-to-School Nights, Open Houses and Orientations will be done virtually or in small groups.

Guidance

The health and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority as we strive to provide a safe learning environment. The following protocols are in place for students and staff:

- Health & Wellness
- Instruction
- Food Service
- Transportation
- Operations & Maintenance
- Human Resources
- Technology
- Extra/Co-Curricular

Health & Wellness

All CDC and IDPH guidelines must be followed for the safety and well-being of our educational community. Daily, all students and staff members are required to complete the COVID-19 screener. Each school will have an isolated space for any individual who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms during the school day.

Per guidelines, face masks are mandatory, and students will be social distanced to the greatest extent possible. The limit of 50 individuals in one space, which includes school buses, will be observed. Each school will also limit access to visitors and volunteers.

Any individual with symptoms associated with COVID-19 should stay home. These symptoms include a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Families and staff members are asked to report possible infections to the school so that contact tracing may occur. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, CWC #5 will follow IDPH guidelines for quarantine. Those individuals must follow doctor's orders, be out of school for at least fourteen days, and can return to school upon the presentation of a doctor's note.

Students/employees that were in close contact (defined as closer than six feet for more than fifteen minutes) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must self-quarantine for fourteen days.

Considerations will be given to the impact that COVID-19 has on the mental health of faculty, staff, students, and their families. The mental and emotional well-being of students and staff members will be monitored closely. Access to school counselors and social workers will be readily available.

Instruction

For the health and safety of all students, C-WC #5 is providing parents with a choice regarding their child's education. Daily attendance and engagement of students is expected whether students are participating in-person or remotely. The school district will continue to address curriculum needs by focusing on essential standards and addressing any areas of learning loss during the school closure. To give staff time to finalize instructional plans, the first day of student attendance will be Thursday, August 20th (instead of the 17th that was originally on the school calendar). In order to maximize the

instructional minutes provided for students, Early Childhood/Pre-K through Grade 5 will follow a regular school schedule. Results from our recent parent survey indicated that approximately 25% of our parents would choose remote instruction for their students. If those numbers are accurate, one teacher at each grade level (K-5) will be assigned as the remote learning teacher for their respective grade. Teachers at grades 6-12 will teach face-to-face and remotely. Therefore, grades 6-12 will have a slightly altered schedule to give departmentalized teachers time to plan, offer remote learning instruction, and answer student/parent questions.

As the first step of online registration, parents will choose from the following:

Face-to-Face Instruction

Face-to-face instruction is our most effective means of educating students. All face-to-face classrooms will follow social distancing guidelines to the extent possible. Face masks will be required. Student desks will face the same direction with frequent cleaning and disinfecting protocols followed. In addition, students will practice frequent hand hygiene and use hand sanitizer as needed.

- Pre-K/EC through grade 5 will follow a regular schedule in order to maximize learning time.
- Grades 6-12 will follow a slightly altered schedule to accommodate the departmentalized structure.

Remote Instruction

Families will have a remote learning option. If this option is selected, it will be for a minimum of a nine week period. We recognize that this is a difficult decision, therefore, parents will initially have until September 4, 2020 to change their mind. This change can be made by contacting their student's school administrator. If the remote learning option is selected, consistent internet access must be available. Attendance, grading, and accountability is the same as for in-person learning. This option is for students and/or families with elevated health risks due to COVID, or who do not feel comfortable following the current guidelines required of in-person instruction. Although the remote instruction will mirror classroom instruction to the extent possible, it should be understood that these experiences cannot be equal. Remote families will have to partner in this educational process with a minimum of five clock hours daily of instruction and assignments. Office hours will be provided at each grade level for students/parents to ask questions.

Special Education

Students who receive special education services will have FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) provided whether they participate in face-to-face learning or remote learning.

Food Service

Daily meals will be provided. Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria with limited numbers of people, no more than 50, in one space. Meals will be available for pick-up, during designated times, for those choosing remote instruction.

Transportation

The Carmi-White County School district will provide regular bus routes with some changes based upon scheduling needs. A maximum of fifty people are allowed on the bus, which includes the driver. All passengers including the driver will be required to wear face masks. Social distancing, seat limits, and assigned seating will be in place to help with student safety. We encourage parents to transport students to and from school, if possible.

Operations & Maintenance

Increased and enhanced daily cleaning protocols will be established in each building. Areas that have been used by anyone testing positive for COVID-19 will be closed for proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Signage to help promote IDPH safety guidelines will be posted.

Human Resources

The C-WC #5 reopening plans are subject to change when formal guidance and/or mandates are issued by the proper authorities (ISBE, IDPH, etc.) All employees will need to be flexible, collaborative, cooperative, and understanding as we work to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Return to Work

- Staff return to work expectations will be based on guidance from the state and federal government. An employee's request for a special accommodation(s) should be provided to the building administrator and district superintendent for review and consideration.
- Absences that are related to COVID-19 concerns must be accompanied by a physician's note or official notice from the Egyptian Health Department containing relevant information/direction regarding the claimed condition.
- Eligible employees would be entitled to any COVID-19 related federal, state, and local mandated leaves or accommodations. Otherwise, employees would be expected to use the leaves/absences outlined in their respective CBA's.
- The district will monitor staffing levels within each building to ensure optimal operations for teaching and learning. In the event that staff levels drop below the ability for the building to meet the educational needs of the students, the district will consider all options to support student learning.

Technology

The Carmi-White County School District will be utilizing technology to provide a coherent and seamless instruction for face-to-face and remote learning opportunities. The programs and use of technology will be specific to each grade level; however, the district will attempt to be as uniform as possible through the use of Google Classroom.

The district has taken the following steps to enhance the use of technology:

- Assign each student a one-to-one device
- Increase the capability of internet access for students by placing wifi routers on buses
- Will provide instruction to students on how to appropriately use technology
- Provide professional development for CWC Staff
- Will provide technical support for students and parents that are remote learning

Extra/Co-Curricular Activities

The Carmi-White County School District will follow guidelines for the health and safety of our students, coaches, and sponsors. These guidelines are provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois High School Athletic Association. Extra/Co-Curricular activities will only be available to students enrolled in face-to-face instruction.