



Return-to-School Considerations (7/24/2020)

Dear C-WC Parents/Guardians,

The Carmi-White County CUSD #5 Return-to-School Plan for the 2020-2021 school year is based on guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Egyptian Health Department, and the C-WC Transition Committee. This plan is a fluid document and has already been updated since Board approval on Monday. Since parents/guardians are offered options, please revisit the plan before making decisions regarding your student's education. **A district Return-to-School Survey will be shared Monday, July 27th on the district website, app, and social media platforms. Please complete this survey by Friday, July 31st.**

The survey will ask parents to read the C-WC Return-to-School Plan. It will also allow parents/guardians to select their student's learning option to begin the school year. The choices will be face-to-face instruction, remote instruction, or they can indicate that they will not be enrolling their student in our district. We will be asking parents/guardians to make a decision for the first nine weeks of the school year. **A different learning option can be selected each nine week period.** We recognize that this is a difficult decision; therefore, parents will initially have until **September 4, 2020** to change their minds. Your input is vital for us to properly plan for the best instruction possible. This change can be made by contacting their student's school administrator.

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 while inside the building, except when eating. However, breaks will be given in order to allow students the opportunity to take their masks off, while socially distancing themselves.

Desks and/or tables will be spaced out in the classroom as much as physically possible.

- 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.** A school-issued device will be provided to each student. However, 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. **Remote learning will look much different than in the spring. It will be more challenging and rigorous.** Office hours will be provided at each grade level for students/parents to ask questions. To begin the year, teachers will record their lessons and make those available for remote learning students to watch at their convenience. Structured “check-in” times will not be required. It is our goal that the instruction occurring during face-to-face learning will be posted remotely in a timely manner. We ask that you extend grace and patience to our teachers as instructing both face-to-face and remotely is a new challenge for them. Adjustments will be made as we gain more experience and track how our students are responding to the instruction provided.

High School Considerations

High school students will acquire credit in both C-WC face-to-face and remote learning environments. However, parents who choose to **homeschool** their students, or enroll them in a private setting need to remember that if they return to C-WC, the following must be considered:

- C-WC only accepts credits from Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved programs. Therefore, when/if your child returns to school he/she will not receive credit unless attending an ISBE approved program.
- Only full-time C-WC students can participate in all extracurricular activities.
- While your child is homeschooled, it is your responsibility to provide your child with all academic requirements for their particular grade level per school code.

Transportation

The Return-to-School Survey will also ask parents/guardians about their intent in transporting their child to and from school. 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.** Assuming your student is eligible for district transportation, the question will ask if the parent/guardian will be transporting or sending the student on the bus. Again, this can be changed at a later date, but this gives us an idea of how many bus routes are needed to begin the school year and follow the mandates.

Special Education

Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and students with 504 plans will be provided services as outlined in their individual plans during face-to-face learning. If remote instruction is selected for a student with an IEP or 504 plan, an individualized remote learning plan will be created, with parent/guardian input.

Extracurricular Participation

All students in any C-WC district learning environment will receive equitable access to extracurricular activities.

It is our hope that this document assists in answering some of the questions that you may have. As additional information and mandates are made available to us, we may have to alter this plan to both protect the safety of our students, staff, and follow the laws set forth by the state of Illinois. Several districts are choosing a remote-only option because of the immense planning that face-to-face learning requires. However, C-WC is committed to getting our students back in the classroom.