



# CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 51

*Encourage Excellence Every Day with Compassion, Commitment, and Community*

July 30, 2020

Central 51 families,

We appreciate the feedback we have received from parents and staff regarding the preliminary Return to School Plan FAQ document, and our teams continue to work on finalizing the plan. We will release our plan to the public on Friday, July 31, 2020. Parents will receive an email notification when the plan is released. Parents and staff can provide feedback to the Central 51 Board of Education and the Administration by emailing them at [feedbackreturntoschool@central51.net](mailto:feedbackreturntoschool@central51.net). We will hold a special board meeting next week to approve the plan and act on other district business. The special board meeting agenda will be posted publicly on our website and on the front door of Central Intermediate School.

The following resources have been used to guide our transition teams through planning to return to school in the fall of 2020:

- State of Illinois and Governor's Restore Illinois Plan
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Documents including
  - Starting the 2020-2021 School Year, June 23 2020, Part 3 – Transitional Joint
  - Fall 2020 Learning Recommendations, July 23, 2020
  - Guidance with IDPH
  - Various ISBE FAQ's
  - ISBE COVID 19 Communication Tool Kit
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Tazewell County Health Department recommendations
- American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations
- Updates and guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Legal updates from Robbins Schwartz (District's legal counsel)
- Parent and Staff Surveys
- Updates from ROE 53
- Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA)
- Bushue Human Resources, Inc.
- Additional guidance from our commercial liability insurance company

Information is fluid and is released daily; therefore, we continue to monitor and gather information to make the best decision for our Central 51 students and staff to return to school in the fall. Safety is our top priority.

When the Transition Team first met, the goal was to bring all students back five days a week. Based on the survey results and our own desire to have our students back in the classroom, we wanted to make it work. After much research and discussion, it quickly became apparent that

the size of our student population would not allow us to maintain the social distancing recommendations for arrival/dismissal, transitions, physical education, lunch, and transportation, as well as guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting. We are also concerned with the increases in Tazewell County COVID-19 cases where 10-19 year olds are surpassing 80-89 years olds in number of cases at this time.

**Items from Parent Survey given from July 1 - July 7, 2020 - 615 responses**

At this time, are you comfortable sending your child(ren) to school for 5 days a week?

**68.8%** yes **11.1%** no **20.2%** undecided

At this time, are you open to a shortened day schedule 5 days a week for only 5 hrs per day to complete the core subjects for students? (Example: 8:00am- 1:15p.m. or 7:30am-12:45)

**61.3%** yes **21%** no **17.7%** undecided

At this time, are you comfortable with remote learning with one or more days and in-person learning on other days?

**39.3%** yes **39.3%** no **21.3%** undecided

At this time, I prefer remote learning only with no in-person instruction for my child(ren).

**11.4%** yes **83.9%** no **4.7%** undecided

Will your child(ren) need childcare if they are not in-person at school in the fall?

**37.1%** yes **43.1%** no **19.8%** undecided

While we do not have all the answers at this time, we want you to know our principals, teachers and staff are working diligently behind the scenes to develop a plan we believe fits Central the best. As this continues to be an evolving process, we appreciate your continued patience, understanding and support as we navigate this national crisis.

Sincerely,



Dale Heidbreder, Superintendent