



**McHenry Elementary School District 15**  
**FULL RETURN TO**  
**IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN**  
**2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**



# McHenry School District 15 Full Return To In-Person Learning Plan 2021-22 School Year



On July 9, 2021, Illinois State Superintendent of Education, Carmen Ayala, made the following Declaration:

"Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/10-30](#) and [105 ILCS 5/34-18.66](#), remote instruction will be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health."

Current CDC and IDPH Guidance:

1. [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten \(K\)-12 Schools](#)
2. [Illinois Department of Public Health Adopts CDC COVID-19 Prevention School Guidance](#)

While we anticipate additional clarifying information from ISBE on this Declaration, we see this as a positive step towards a closer sense of normalcy and we are excited and optimistic about the upcoming school year. Considering the improved health conditions in our area and based on the guidance from the State and the spirit of the resolution, District 15 plans to operate a full, five days a week, in-person learning model for the 2021-2022 school year. Furthermore, as a result of ISBE's resolution, **optional remote learning will no longer be provided during the 2021-22 school year**, but will be offered to students who meet both of the above listed criteria outlined in the resolution.

The 2020-2021 school year was unprecedented in education and has impacted all of us in various ways. To that end, District 15 is working diligently on reintroduction plans for our staff and students in an effort to mitigate and address the impact of COVID-19. Our planning efforts encompass implementing academic and social-emotional structures and supports that will assist students and families as they navigate back to school. Throughout our planning, the following points have served as our guiding principles:

- Follow the regulations and spirit of guidance from ISBE and IDPH
- Prioritize the health and safety of all students and staff
- Maintain an emphasis on prioritizing in-person learning for all students
- Develop return to learn plans that recognize the impact COVID-19 has had on staff, students, and families
- Focus on social-emotional and mental health supports that will support a successful transition back to in-person learning
- Focus on academic supports that mitigate the impact COVID-19 has had on students
- Be able to develop contingency plans that allow for last-minute changes from ISBE, the State, IDPH

Our goal is to provide support for all of our stakeholders during this transition. This document also serves as a support to families in that regard as it describes in more detail the school environment that students will return to when school resumes this fall.

# Table of Contents

## 2021-2022 School Year Plan

School Hours

Daily Self-Certification

Masks

Transportation

Health Measures

Building Capacities & Learning Spaces

Social Distancing

Lunch

Recess

Hallways/Restrooms

Physical Education

Band and Chorus

Shared Materials

Visitors

Quarantine/Isolation Requirements

Medically Necessary Home/Hospital Instruction

Facilities Management

## 2021-2022 School Year Plan

At this time, the data supports District 15 return to a full in-person learning model and any mitigation recommendations/guidelines from the CDC, IDPH and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will be reviewed and implemented as necessary. **As a reminder, District 15 will not have a remote learning option unless a student has not received a vaccination or is not eligible for a vaccination AND is quarantined under state and health department guidelines.**

Similar to pre-pandemic options, if parents do not wish to send their child(ren) for in-person instruction, they may:

- Home school their child(ren)
- Seek a doctor's approval for homebound instruction due to the student having a medical condition [click here](#) for additional information

### School Hours

Students will attend in-person each day school is in session for the full day.

- Duker, Edgebrook, Hilltop: 8:35 AM - 3:15 PM
- Landmark, Riverwood, Valley View: 9:10 AM - 3:50 PM
- MMS, Parkland: 7:35 AM - 2:20 PM

### Daily Self-Certification

At this time, parents will be required to self-certify students daily through Skyward Family Access in order for students to enter the school building, including that a student does not have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher. Any students with symptoms will be moved to an isolation area where they can be further evaluated for admittance to class or for parent pick up.



[Web Browser Video Directions](#)

[Web Browser Printed Directions](#)

[Mobile App Video Directions](#)

[Mobile App Printed Directions](#)

### Masks

In accordance with the most recent CDC guidance, universal indoor masking is recommended for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks do not need to be worn outdoors, however, in areas of high transmission or in crowded outdoor settings, it is recommended (not required) that unvaccinated people wear masks. Masks are required for all students and staff on school buses, regardless of vaccination status.

These guidelines are subject to change based upon changes in applicable factors including an increase in COVID-19 rates or revised public health guidance.

Updated 7/14/21

## **Transportation**

We encourage our parents to transport their children if they can to minimize the number of students on a bus. At this time, buses will return to their full capacity and will not be capped at 50 people so to prioritize in-person learning for all students. Masks will be **required** to be worn on the school bus as a layered prevention strategy for all students and staff regardless of their vaccination status. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

## **Health Measures**

McHenry D15's health measures will include:

- General and close contact notifications of positive COVID-19 cases
- COVID-19 Dashboard for confirmed cases in District 15 schools
- Continued use of supervised isolation rooms
- Contact tracing will be conducted in conjunction with local health departments
- Quarantine guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals
- Vaccinated staff and students are not required to quarantine
- Exploration of options for COVID-19 testing for students

## **Building Capacities & Learning Spaces**

- Students fully engage in all content areas including core subjects, specials, and exploratories
- Teachers may work with small groups of students in closer proximity
- Blending the best of pre-COVID and COVID learning to create safe, respectful learning environments where students are engaged and challenged
- Students leverage technology devices to support independent and group learning
- Access to before and after school activities in compliance with CDC/IDPH guidelines
- In school buildings, masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated students and staff, but are still recommended (not required) for anyone who is not fully vaccinated
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer throughout the day
- Use of locker spaces will be determined by individual schools and follow CDC/IDPH recommendations

## **Social Distancing**

Students and staff will be encouraged to maintain proper social distancing. The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, schools will layer multiple prevention strategies to prevent the risk of possible COVID-19 cases.

## **Lunch**

All meals will continue to be at no-cost to students in the 2021-2022 school year. Cafeterias and food service will operate utilizing mitigation guidance to the greatest extent possible.

## **Recess**

Recess will continue to be held outdoors as long as weather permits. Use of playground equipment will be allowed. Social distancing will be enforced outside as well as proper hand washing/sanitizing at the beginning and end of recess. At this time, masks will not be required outside. During inclement weather students will be assigned to indoor spaces for recess.

**Updated 7/14/21**

### **Hallways/Restrooms**

Each building will establish restroom and hallway procedures to maintain social distancing and health guidelines in the safest way possible.

- Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly throughout the day. Standard procedures have been modified to accommodate more frequent cleaning and disinfection. Each building has a bathroom cleaning protocol with a maintenance log.
- Bathroom usage will be monitored and regulated to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

### **Physical Education**

Physical Education will be offered in accordance with ISBE/CDC/IDPH guidelines. Our hope is that middle school students will be able to dress for physical education, however, at this time, that is to be determined.

### **Band, Chorus, and Music Education**

Band, chorus, and music education will be offered in accordance with ISBE/CDC/IDPH guidelines.

### **Shared Materials**

Appropriate hygiene will be encouraged before and after the use of shared materials. At this time, drinking fountains will not be in service except for bottle fillers. Students will be allowed to bring water bottles from home.

### **Visitors**

We will continue to minimize visitors into the school buildings. Health and safety measures must be adhered to by all visitors, staff, and students. Special education (IEP) meetings will continue to be scheduled virtually with families.

### **Quarantine/Isolation Requirements**

We will continue to follow the return to school guidelines set forth by IDPH and MCDH regarding any COVID-like symptoms. As changes are likely to occur, District 15 will provide updated guidelines to families once IDPH, MCDH, and ISBE provide final guidance for the 2021/2022 school year. For the most up-to-date information please click [here](#).

### **Medically Necessary Home/Hospital Instruction**

\*\*\*Only for approved applications due to a medical need\*\*\*

District 15 will continue to provide home/hospital services to qualifying students with medical conditions for which a doctor certifies that the child can not attend school. Home/Hospital instruction provides 1 hour a day (or 5 hours a week) of instruction. Please contact Kelli Catini, Executive Director of Student Services, if you have any questions regarding home/hospital instruction.

[ISBE Home/Hospital Q&A](#)

[Medical Certification for Home/Hospital Instruction](#)

## **Facilities Management**

The custodial staff has increased cleaning and disinfection of commonly used areas and materials. Appropriate cleaning supplies such as electrostatic sprayers are used to disinfect rooms on a regular basis. Contact cleaning occurs in classrooms during the day as needed by teachers. Disinfectant has been provided to all staff so cleaning can occur throughout the day. Students may assist in wiping down their workspace or eating area during the day.

Students and staff will use hand sanitizer throughout the day, especially as they enter and exit classrooms. Hand washing will occur as needed and before and after lunch. Students will be limited to small groups in the bathrooms.

This will be updated as ISBE/IDPH guidelines change.