



# SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

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*“Passionately Pursuing Excellence”*

*Academically, Socially & Creatively*

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## Southwestern CUSD #9 School Re-Opening Plan for 2021-22 School Year

In order for public schools to have access to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, including the American Rescue Plan ESSER (ARP ESSER) program, each district must create a plan to safely re-open schools for the upcoming school year promoting the health and safety of students, staff, and the school community. This plan must be made available on the districts' website and offer a chance for public comment. Please know that this is a preliminary plan that could change after receiving feedback or as requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines change. Below are the required components of the plan. Please send all feedback regarding this plan to [khacke@piasabirds.net](mailto:khacke@piasabirds.net)

- Length of School Day – The school day length and frequency will return to the traditional schedule of 5 days per week from 8:00-3:00. A calendar for the 2021-22 school year is located on our website at [www.piasabirds.net](http://www.piasabirds.net)
- In-Person Learning – All students enrolled in Southwestern CUSD #9 will return to in-person learning.
- Remote Learning – Students who are not eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and are under quarantine order will be offered remote learning throughout the duration their quarantine order. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) passed the following resolution on May 19, 2021, in support of in-person learning:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/il/isbe/Board.nsf/files/C35QYL6B6317/\\$file/03.A%20In%20Person%20Learning%20Resolution%205-18-2021.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/il/isbe/Board.nsf/files/C35QYL6B6317/$file/03.A%20In%20Person%20Learning%20Resolution%205-18-2021.pdf)

A Frequently Asked Questions document regarding the Resolution can be found here:

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Resolution-QA.pdf>

- Face Coverings – Currently, face coverings are required to be worn by all individuals in the school setting. Below is a link to Governor Pritzker's Executive Order No. 79 which states schools are to follow ISBE and IDPH guidance

<https://www2.illinois.gov/Documents/ExecOrders/2021/ExecutiveOrder-2021-10.pdf>

ISBE and IDPH requirements regarding face coverings <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=23322>

Southwestern CUSD #9 will follow ISBE and IDPH face covering requirements.

- Social Distancing – The current requirement for social distancing is a minimum of 3 feet between students and staff at all times. Exceptions to this requirement include when dining, which is 6 feet, or riding a bus, which is limited to 50 total passengers. Each school in the Southwestern School District will continue to meet these ISBE/IDPH requirements.
- Vaccines – In conjunction with the Macoupin County Public Health Department (MCPHD), the Southwestern School District has offered vaccination clinics on site for both students and staff. This effort will continue in the future as well. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated will not have to quarantine after close contact with a positive case of COVID-19, according to current CDC and IDPH guidelines.
- Health & Safety – Temperature checks are no longer required of students nor staff upon boarding a bus or entering a building. Southwestern CUSD #9 will continue to monitor the health and well-being of staff and students. This includes contact tracing when a positive case is verified and providing prompt notification to staff, as well as parents/guardians of students in close contact.
- Cleaning/Sanitizing – To combat the spread of the virus, Southwestern CUSD #9 purchased, installed and continues to use many tools to improve the safety for our students and staff. We will continue to utilize electrostatic sprayers which sanitize surfaces in all facilities and buses, hands-free bottle filling stations in lieu of water fountains as well as hand sanitizer dispensers installed throughout each facility. Each classroom is also equipped with sanitizing solution to clean surfaces throughout the day as needed.
- Transportation – Transportation will be offered to all eligible students. Currently, ISBE guidance of limiting each bus to no more than 50 passengers is still in effect and will be adhered to.
- Continuity of Services – Southwestern CUSD #9 will continue to offer the full slate of services to which our learning community is accustomed including meeting students’ academic needs and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, of which includes student health and food services.
- Review and Revision – All public schools must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services, and must seek and take public input into account in determining whether and what revisions are necessary.