

# SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

Administrative Offices – P.O. Box 728, 201 E. City Limits Road, Brighton, IL 62012  
*“Passionately Pursuing Excellence”*  
*Academically, Socially & Creatively*

Kyle M. Hacke  
 Superintendent

Phone 618-372-3813  
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## Southwestern CUSD #9

### Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

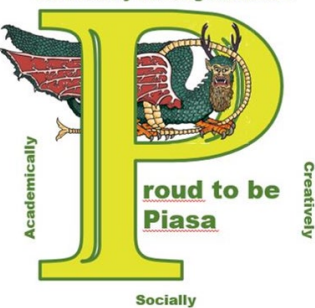
In order for public schools to have access to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, including the American Rescue Plan ESSER (ARP ESSER) program, each district must create a plan to safely re-open schools for the upcoming school year promoting the health and safety of students, staff, and the school community. This plan must be made available on the districts’ website and offer a chance for public comment. Please know this plan could change after receiving feedback from our community, local health departments 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. An alternate learning option may be considered for those who can demonstrate through a physician’s orders, that in-person attendance places the student or their household in peril.
- 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>
- Latest Health Guidance - CDC Guidance for K-12 Schools was released on July 9, 2021.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>  
 ISBE/IDPH have adopted the CDC recommendations.  
 Amended FAQ document from ISBE with further guidance released on August 2, 2021:  
[https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-School-FAQs-20210802.pdf?\\_cldee=a2hhY2tIQHBpYXNhYmlyZHMubmV0&recipientid=contact-](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-School-FAQs-20210802.pdf?_cldee=a2hhY2tIQHBpYXNhYmlyZHMubmV0&recipientid=contact-)

[9bf44aa16ef4ea11a816000d3a5913bd-8d7ea14551c84a76a87326bfb78f3095&esid=b8566e80-9cf3-eb11-94ef-0022480aa2b2](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0727-covid-19-guidance-vaccinated.html)

Updated guidance released on July 27, 2021 “Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the [guidance for fully vaccinated people](#). CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.”

- Face Coverings – Southwestern School District will follow the face covering mandate announced by Governor Pritzker on August 4, 2021. This mandate calls for face coverings to be worn by all individuals regardless of vaccination status while indoors at all public schools.
- Social Distancing – CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies. Each school in the Southwestern School District will continue to meet these 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 guidelines.
- Close Contacts/Quarantines – The Public Health Departments of Jersey and Macoupin counties will make the final determination on who is quarantined and for how long. Under current CDC guidelines, when universal masking is in place, the definition of a close contact for students is reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet, within a classroom. Also, when universal masking is in place, quarantines may not be necessary. In lieu of quarantines, schools may be allowed to offer screenings to close contacts of positive individuals by testing on day 1, 3, 5 and 7 (Test-to-Stay). As long as the close contacts remain asymptomatic, they may be allowed to participate fully in all school-based activities. Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine.
- Screenings – Southwestern School District is currently researching the SHIELD program developed by the University of Illinois. This program offers a saliva-based screening as well as a Binax nasal swab. Students must have a signed consent form on file to be eligible for screening. No student will be screened without parent/guardian consent.
- Visitors - Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups are discouraged from visiting schools.
- Activities - Mask use for sports and extra-curricular activities will follow the IHSA guidance that all school districts in the State are required to follow. Currently, that guidance is all indoor sports will require athletes as well as spectators to wear face coverings. Masks are optional for athletes and spectators of all outdoor sports. All athletic fees and admission prices will be reinstated for the 2021-22 school year.



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- 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 the school community of positive COVID-19 cases while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights. We will also monitor our local health data closely, conferring with our local health departments on a regular basis.
- 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, the CDC requires masks for anyone on a school bus.
- 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. We will continue to offer free meals to all students throughout the 2021-22 school year.
- 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.