

District 7 families,

On Monday, August 3rd, District 7 will release its Return to Learn Reopening Plan to the community. As one component of the plan, District 7 was required by the Illinois State Board of Education to develop three different scheduling “Options”. The District will be prepared to move into any of these three options throughout the 2020-21 school year if needed based upon the recommendations of local and state health departments.

Below is a brief summary of the scheduling options:

Option 1--Traditional Learning Model

Option One includes in-person instruction everyday with compacted daily schedules. In person learning at EHS is from 7:20 AM-11:50 AM, the middle schools are from 8:00 AM - 12:40 PM, and the elementary schools are from 9:15 AM - 2:30 PM.

Option 2--Hybrid/Blended Learning Model

Option Two is a combination of in-person learning two days per week and remote learning the other three days of the week. Students in the blended learning model would be assigned to attend on “A” days or “B” days based primarily by last name. The purpose behind a blended model would be to reduce the number of students in the classrooms and buildings by only having half of the students attend Monday through Thursday each week with Friday being remote for all students. Students receiving special education services would have an opportunity to attend in-person to meet their individual learning needs. The daily starting and ending times for all buildings will be the same for Option 2 and Option 1. A detailed summary of Option 2 will be available in the District's Reopening Plan which will be released on Monday, August 3rd.

Option 3--Remote Learning Model

Option Three is 100% remote learning for all students every day. If the district would decide to move into Option Three, it would be done in consultation with state and local health agencies or possibly due to a directive from the Governor’s Office.

All three Options take into consideration how we can best meet the needs of our students and families. In all three Options, students will have access to teachers, counselors, therapists, support staff, curriculum and other resources.

****Please note that parents who registered for 100% remote learning by July 17th will have their students in Option Three for the entire first semester regardless of any other factors. All families that were put on the remote learning waiting list will be contacted by their student's building principal next week to inform families of their student's status of either remote or in-person learning.*

******Based on the current information from the state and local health agencies, District 7 will begin the 2020-2021 school year in Option One for elementary students grades pre-kindergarten through 5th grade and Option Two for middle and high school students. Option Two will be in place for grades 6-12 for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.******

Due to the shift from Option One to Option Two for grades 6-12, we realize that families may want to adjust their choice regarding remote learning and move their high school or middle school students back to receiving some in-person instruction. All changes must be made directly with the high school or middle school where the student attends. The DEADLINE FOR ANY CHANGES WILL BE TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH at 5 PM. If you wish to request a change in your middle or high school student's remote learning status, please contact the following building administrator via email:

Edwardsville High School: Mr. Kyle Stewart (Asst Principal) at kstewart@ecusd7.org

Liberty Middle School: Dr. Allen Duncan (Principal) at aduncan@ecusd7.org

Lincoln Middle School: Ms. Jennifer Morgan (Principal) at jmorgan@ecusd7.org

We understand that some may ask why there would be a different option for K-5 and 6-12. While there are many factors that go into the decision, listed below are the main reasons:

- *The latest data suggests that children aged 10 and under are unlikely to contract and even less likely to transmit COVID-19 than adults or adolescent students.*

- *We are able to isolate classrooms at the elementary level so that students only come in contact with a small group of students each day.*
- *Typical class sizes at the middle and high school are between 28-30 students. We are hiring additional teachers at the elementary level in order to keep class sizes low--with an overall average of 20-21 students per class.*
- *Elementary buildings have smaller populations of students compared to our middle schools and high school, with our largest elementary building at less than 400 in-person learners. Enough families have chosen remote learning, which allows for scheduling of lunch and recess with groups of less than 50 students in one area.*
- *High school and middle school students are better able to complete remote learning independently.*
- *Moving to a blended schedule such as Option Two at the elementary level places additional burdens on families for childcare on days where students are at home in comparison to middle school/high school aged students.*

Please understand that these options are fluid and as more information becomes available, it may be necessary to move K-5 into Option Two or to move all grade levels to Option Three.

Tomorrow, middle and high school families will receive an email from the building principal that reviews additional details regarding Option Two for the first semester.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Dr. Jason Henderson