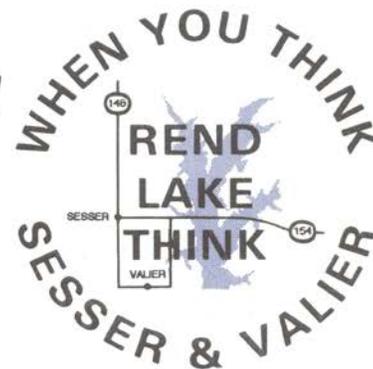


PRINCIPALS: 625-5105

Elementary
Ext. 118
High School
Ext. 100
Health Office
Ext. 102
Guidance Office
Ext. 103
Athletic Director
Ext. 116
Administration
Ext. 105

Sesser-Valier Community Unit School

District 196
4626 St. Hwy. 154
SESSER, ILLINOIS 62884
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DISTRICT RETURN-TO-LEARN REOPENING PLAN FOR 2020-2021 July 30, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Without any doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted almost every aspect of public and private education in the spring of 2020. What's more, for the 2020-2021 school year, school may look different this fall than what our families are accustomed to, but our focus remains the same—every student receives a high-quality education.

Health & Safety

In developing this plan, District personnel followed the guidance of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) when making decisions about what the fall will look like in SV196. The health and safety of students, families, and school personnel are top of mind in all District decisions made pertaining to the reopening of the school, and health and safety matters are prioritized in each of the plan's components. As a result, we will teach students at all grade levels how to protect themselves against the COVID-19 virus, how to maintain good hygiene (handwashing, covering coughs/sneezes, etc.), and how to prevent themselves from inadvertently infecting others.

Educational Models

Our District's goal is to return to in-person instruction, and we will prioritize the health and safety of students, staff, and their families first and foremost. As a result, we will be providing a **blended model** of education when school officially starts on August 17, 2020. We fully anticipate that our plans may change during the year (full in-person instruction; full remote instruction; modified blended model instruction). Regardless of what models are used throughout the year, our District is committed to providing every student with a high-quality public education and the opportunity to succeed regardless of which platforms are used to provide educational services.

Social & Emotional Supports

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the lives of students, school staff members, and families. SV196 will continue to seek ways to help students, families, and staff members with social and emotional supports just as you are accustomed to seeing in the District. Missing social interactions found primarily in the school environment causes issues such

as grief, stress, and anxiety for students and adults, and one of our focus points in the planning process has been how we care for each other.

Special Populations

The District will also address the critical needs of each student, across in-person and remote learning contexts, including vulnerable students and those furthest from opportunity. The reality of the circumstance isn't pretty—the 2020-2021 school year will bring difficult, new challenges. However, we won't be satisfied until we know that we've done everything we possibly can to maintain our relationships with each and every student. As a result, we're taking the following steps to ensure equitable access:

- Special education students will have access to special education teachers either in-person or via remote learning.
- Students who need food while not physically present at school during the week will have access to breakfast and lunch packs.
- Students who do not respond to initial contacts regarding remote learning or who do not log on to daily teaching/work sessions will be contacted by school personnel to provide help and encouragement to stay connected.

Family Engagement

Communicating with families is a top priority for SV196 personnel. We want to partner with families and will prioritize communicating with them. District personnel will regularly reach out to families to obtain feedback, check on students who are working remotely, and offer tips/tricks for families to engage students in productive, educational activities while our normal school schedule is interrupted.

How You Can Help

Throughout this plan, several ways that you can help us help your child(ren) are shown in **green highlights**. Please help us by teaching and reinforcing these concepts at home when your child(ren) is away from school. Working together, we can do our part to overcome COVID-19 as quickly as possible so that we can resume everyday, uninterrupted living. Additionally, please be watching for a series of Remind messages designed to help parents prepare for the upcoming school year. We will provide parent checklists, special tasks for remote learning, and encouraging tips for making the most of the fall of 2020.

We sincerely appreciate and value the trust that you place in us to educate and care for your child(ren). We believe that this situation will serve to strengthen our relationship and that it will cause us to place an even greater emphasis on the value of high-quality education for years to come. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions that you may have, please don't hesitate to contact the school office or submit your question via e-mail to covid-19@sv196.org. On behalf of the District, thank you for your support, patience, and graciousness as we navigate the 2020-2021 school year together.

HEALTH & SAFETY

All information/procedures in this section are subject to both ISBE and IDPH guidelines and may change at any time as directed or recommended by these state or other local agencies.

ISBE/IDPH/CDC Guidelines

Face Coverings

All individuals in a school building must wear a face covering unless they have a medical contraindication, are under 2 years of age, have trouble breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face covering without assistance. **In SV196, all individuals (students and staff members) must wear a face covering at all times to gain entry to and remain in the school building. Any student unable or unwilling to wear a face covering will be automatically assigned to full remote learning** (see Full Remote Learning Option in lieu of Blended Learning—Parent Choice below). **Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained** (see *Social Distance* below).

Social Distance

Social distance (6' or more separation) must be observed as much as possible in all areas of the school campus. In SV196, student and teacher desks must be spaced no less than 6 feet apart in classrooms and all activities, whether in classrooms or in other areas of the school campus. District schools will post age-appropriate visual reminders, signs, floor markers, and/or other signage throughout school buildings and in areas where students congregate or line-up (e.g. arrival/departure, cafeteria lines, hallways, recess lines, libraries). School building schedules may be staggered for arrivals/dismissals, hall passing periods, meal/snack times, bathroom breaks, etc., to ensure student and staff safety. Staff and students should abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc. Staff members should maintain social distancing during breaks, lunches, etc., and should minimize eating with their masks off near others.

Personal Hygiene/Sanitation

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing is key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. **Students and staff members must clean their hands as often as possible with soap/water for at least 20 seconds. If soap/water are not readily available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. Students and staff should use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom(s) every time. Students and staff should avoid touching their mouth, eyes, and/or nose as much as possible.** Each school will place age-appropriate visual reminders/signage to remind students and staff members of the need for proper hand hygiene. If assisting a student requires close contact (e.g. hand-over-hand guidance, attending to an injury), hand washing or

sanitizing should be performed by staff both before and after close contact with students.

Gatherings/Capacity Limits

The gathering of 50 or more individuals in one space is not permitted. ISBE has defined “one space” as one school bus, one classroom, or areas of hallway. SV196 staff members will maintain and monitor strict compliance with physical gathering limits as outlined in state agency guidelines.

Close Contact/Self-Quarantine

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are suspected of having COVID-19 infection should seek medical attention, self-isolate, and follow CDC guidelines for discontinuation of isolation. Individuals who have had close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection should isolate at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Individuals who did not have close contact can return to school immediately after disinfection.

“Close contact” means the individual was within 6 feet of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection for more than 15 minutes. (Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health officials indicated, in a meeting with school superintendents on Monday, July 20, 2020, that close contact, 15-minute time window, means 15 *consecutive* minutes.)

Symptom Screening/Temperature Checks/Self-Certification

Schools and districts must conduct temperature and symptom screenings or require self-certification and verification for all staff, students, and visitors entering school buildings. Temperature and symptom screenings will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. “Have you received a confirmed diagnosis for coronavirus (COVID-19) by a coronavirus (COVID-19) test or from a diagnosis by a health care professional in the past 14 days?”
2. “Have you had close contact with or cared for someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?”
3. “Have you experienced any cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days (to include: fever or temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, pressure in the chest, extreme fatigue, earache, persistent headache, diarrhea, and persistent loss of smell or taste)?”

Individuals who are able to answer “NO” to all of the screening questions will be allowed to enter the building.

Individuals who answer “YES” to one or more of the screening questions will not be allowed to enter the building.

Staff member screenings will be completed using a self-certification process. Student screenings may be completed either using a self-certification process (via an app or electronic form) or a symptom/temperature check as outlined above.

District Classroom/Common Areas Guidelines

1. Seating or classroom spacing should be arranged with 6 feet of separation/distance between people.
2. Common areas (e.g. tables, cafeteria, gym, etc.) should be clearly marked to show where to sit, stand, or line-up for spacing that is at least 6 feet.
3. Windows should remain open when possible to allow for maximum ventilation.
4. Hand washing/sanitizing should be encouraged throughout the day.
5. School activities should be scheduled and coordinated to allow for maximum social distancing and minimum “mixing” of students.
6. All individuals should use hand sanitizer upon entering a classroom or other separate space.
7. Lockers will not be used. Students may carry/store their books in their personal backpacks or other suitable, school-appropriate storage containers/bags.
8. All building drinking water fountains will be out-of-service until further notice. Students should bring their own reusable drinking water bottles, and age-appropriate filling stations will be available as appropriate throughout the school day.

Cleaning/Disinfection Procedures

All custodial/maintenance staff will be trained on the return-to-school guidelines, where applicable. District custodians and other personnel who perform cleaning functions will perform both routine cleaning and extra sanitization/disinfection tasks in both low and high-contact areas using EPA-certified cleaners/disinfectants approved for use in school buildings. Cleaners and disinfectants will meet or exceed current federal and state regulations.

Custodians and other personnel who perform cleaning functions will clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces (e.g. door handles, desktops, countertops, light switches, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, leaning manipulatives, phones, common storage cabinets/backpack areas, sinks, faucets, toilet handles) on a regular basis. Building restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and common areas will be cleaned throughout the school day. Soft surfaces (e.g. carpets, rugs) will be disinfected regularly. Other items that are difficult or impossible to disinfect (e.g. cloth toys or other cloth materials) should not be used.

Sanitation, hygiene, and PPE supplies will be ordered and stored for employee access on an as-needed basis. All requests for sanitation, hygiene, and PPE supplies should be sent to the District's maintenance director and/or the applicable building principal.

School Bus Ridership/Sanitation Plan

The District's transportation contractor, Durham School Services (Durham), will sanitize school buses on a regular basis using a schedule jointly approved by both Durham and the District. Durham will utilize a disinfectant very similar to the cleaner/disinfectant that the District uses throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Current ISBE guidance for distancing on school buses indicates that, "No more than 50 individuals may be on a bus at one time. All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering, unless they meet a face covering exception." To begin the school year, parents who are available to transport their child(ren) to/from school are encouraged to do so.

Bus drivers and students should allow as much space as possible between each individual on a bus. Further, students from the same household should sit together on a bus. In SV196, bus drivers will assign a seat to each and every student riding a bus, and students from the same household will be assigned to sit together as much as possible. Students who are not wearing a face covering will not be allowed to ride a district-provided bus.

Preparation for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick

In the event that a student or staff member becomes sick, SV196 will utilize the most up-to-date guidance available from ISBE/IDPH/CDC/Bi-County Health Department at the time of occurrence of the illness. Students (families) and staff members who show any signs or symptoms of illness should stay home. Students (families) and staff members should also report possible cases to the school where the individual attends school or works to initiate contact tracing (completed by Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department).

Currently known symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

District staff members who monitor and/or record student attendance should request specific symptom reporting when absences are reported along with COVID-19 diagnoses and COVID-19 exposure. Information provided by absentees should be documented and shared with the District Nurse or other appropriate personnel.

In accordance with state and federal guidance, school community members who are sick should not return to school until they have met the necessary health criteria to return. CDC and IDPH guidelines for students who were suspected of having COVID-19,

whether they were tested or not, state that 72 hours must elapse from resolution of fever without fever-reducing medication and 10 days must pass after symptoms first appeared. Further, it is recommended that medically fragile and immunocompromised students consult their medical provider prior to attending school.

Students or staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 should call to check in with the District Nurse or building administrator (if the nurse is unavailable) following quarantine.

Any individual within the school environment who shows symptoms should be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. Individuals who are sick should be sent home. In the event emergency services are necessary, District personnel will call 9-1-1. When interacting with students or staff who may be sick, school nurses and personnel should follow CDC guidance on standard and transmission-based protocols.

SV196 will designate a safe area to quarantine any individuals who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and may be awaiting pickup/evaluation. Students who are quarantined in the school setting must never be left alone and must always be supervised while maintaining necessary precautions.

Individuals who did not have close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection. Those who had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection should isolate at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days. (Close contact means the individual was within 6 feet of the individual with symptoms for more than 15 minutes.)

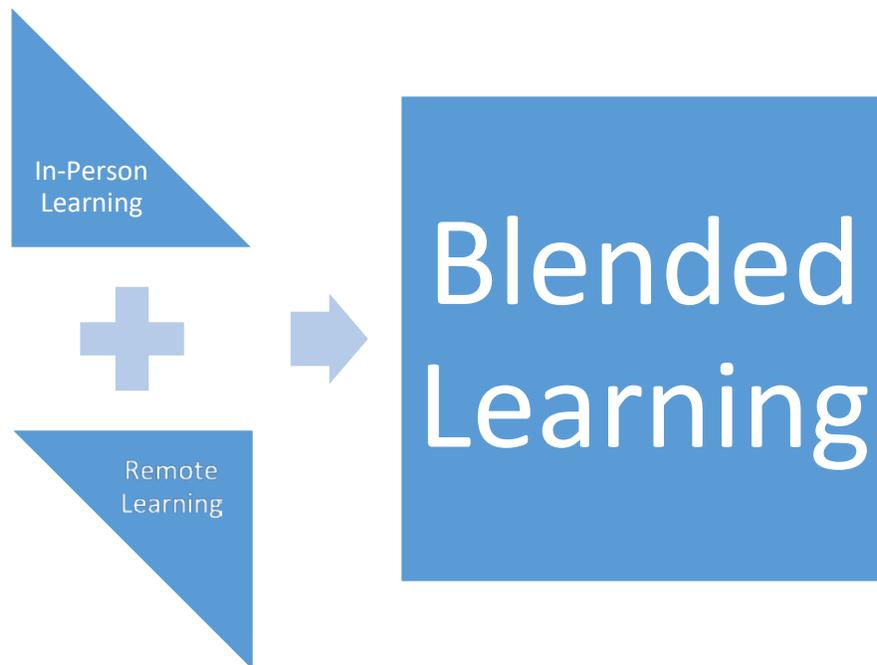
SCHOOL REOPENING/DISTRICT ATTENDANCE MODELS

All information/procedures in this section are subject to both ISBE and IDPH guidelines and may change at any time as directed or recommended by these state or other local agencies.

In all learning models listed below, District grading policies/practices are fully in-force as outlined in schools' student/parent handbooks. All district students are accountable for completion of all school work as assigned, and that work will be graded (i.e. not pass/fail; not "incomplete"). All district students are accountable for engaging in both in-person and remote learning days to ensure continuity of learning.

Blended Learning

Effective August 17, 2020, the District will reopen for in-person instruction using a **blended learning** model (a mixture of some in-person instruction and some remote learning).



Students will be assigned to learning groups (Learning Group A & Learning Group B). Each learning group will consist of approximately one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the student body of each school grouping (Elementary: EC-5th Grade; Junior High: 6th-8th Grade; High School: 9th-12th Grade) as determined by the building principal. Significant efforts will be made to assign learning groups by family.

Students will attend in-person learning days on the following schedule:

- 8:00 AM: Students begin arriving, check-in at school-designated entry points, and proceed directly to an assigned classroom (breakfast available in class)
- 1:00 PM: In-person learning dismissal time
- 1:00 PM: Staff Lunch Period Begins
- 1:45 PM: Afternoon remote learning availability begins
- 2:45 PM: Afternoon remote learning availability ends
- 2:45 PM: Staff Common Preparation Time Begins
- 3:30 PM: End-of-School Day

ISBE guidelines require no less than 300 minutes of instruction per day for all students. The District's blended learning plan exceeds ISBE guidelines (360 minutes). ISBE strongly recommends that districts should strive to provide all their students with at least 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of synchronous learning with real-time instruction and interaction between students and their teachers.

Learning Group A and Learning Group B will attend school on the following weekly schedule (5-day week; unless otherwise directed by the building principal):

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Learning Group A | In-Person Learning | Remote Learning | Remote Learning | In-Person Learning | Remote Learning |
| Learning Group B | Remote Learning | In-Person Learning | Remote Learning | Remote Learning | In-Person Learning |

In-Person Learning (Physically Present at School)

Remote Learning (Not Physically Present at School, but Virtually Connected to Class(es))

School-specific learning activities/plans will be determined by each school grouping and will be age-appropriate.

Full Remote Learning Option in lieu of Blended Learning—Parent Choice/Opt-In

Effective July 23, 2020, Illinois public school districts are required to allow parents to choose full remote learning (no in-person attendance) for their child(ren) during the 2020-2021 school year/COVID-19 pandemic. During school registration, parents will be asked to choose either “blended learning” or “full remote learning” for their child(ren) to start the school year. Parents/students who choose “full remote learning” will be required to maintain that choice/status until quarter breaks (end of 1st 9-weeks; end of 2nd 9-weeks; etc.) unless otherwise authorized or directed by the building principal.

Full In-Person Attendance (Traditional School Day/Week)

When state regulations and local conditions permit, the District will return to full in-person student attendance (similar to a traditional school day). At that time, some health/safety precautions may be maintained (e.g. face covering, social distancing) while others may be discontinued.

Full Remote Learning—District Wide/All Students

Full remote learning may be utilized at some point during the school year if ISBE/IDPH/Governor’s Office issue a remote learning mandate or if local/regional conditions deteriorate to the point where remote learning is the safest solution for the SV196 school family. The District Superintendent will be responsible for deciding/directing implementation of full remote learning and making school calendar adjustment decision(s), and such decisions may be made at any time with short notice. Effort will be made to provide students/parents with as much advance notice as possible, given the circumstances at the time of the decision.

Remote learning, as part of the Blended Learning model, Full Remote Learning model (parent choice), and/or Full Remote Learning model (district wide) is subject to a school-developed remote learning plan that has been approved by the District Superintendent. Remote learning in the district may include, but is not limited to, use of instructional approaches like Google Classroom, paper packets, and/or other interactive learning activities chosen by each teacher/school and approved by the building principal.

DISTRICT RETURN-TO-LEARN REOPENING PLAN REVIEW

The District's COVID-19 Planning Team will review the return-to-learn reopening plan on or about Friday, September 4, 2020, and determine if modifications or other adjustments to the plan are necessary/feasible and will provide timely, advance notice of possible modifications as soon as possible to parents.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SV196 PARENTS

(Coming soon to www.sv196.org!)

Parent Summary

SV196 Return-to-Learn Reopening Plan FAQ

School Registration Blended Learning/Full Remote Opt-In Form

TeacherEase Symptom/Temperature Self-Certification Application

GUIDANCE SOURCES/DOCUMENTS

Illinois State Board of Education & Illinois Department of Public Health, “Starting the 2020-21 School Year, June 23, 2020, Part 3—Transition Joint Guidance,”
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf>

Illinois State Board of Education, “Part 3 Transition Guidance: Starting the 2020-2021 School Year FAQ, Last Updated: July 24, 2020,” <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FAQ-Part-3-Transition-Guidance.pdf>

Illinois State Board of Education, “Fall 2020 Learning Recommendations, July 23, 2020,”
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-2020-Learning-Rec.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Website Posting Regarding Schools,
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics, Website Posting Regarding Reopening Schools,
“COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-Entry,”
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>