

Tonica CCSD #79



2021 – 2022 School Year Return to Learn & Continuity of Services Plan

Plan Participants

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Preface

The complex task of the Re-Entry/Return to Learn team was to take the 2020 – 2021 Reopening Guide and make adjustments for the 2021 – 2022 school year using updates guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Health. The focus of the plan was to seek the best possible path to the highest level of In-Person Learning whereas ISBE goals was that schools should be the last to close during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Many of the items contained in this Plan are procedural based upon current ISBE and IDPH guidelines or guidance. As the guidelines or guidance changes the school will also make changes to reflect the adjustments.

Introduction

Tonica Grade School developed a Re-opening Plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year that embraced our ability to maximize In-Person Learning. A careful and thoughtful review of the infrastructure, staffing, current conditions and surveys resulted in Tonica Grade School inviting all students to attend In-Person daily. The plan also provided for a Remote Learning option either due to parents electing the ISBE required mode of Remote Learning, quarantine or isolation of students, or a closure due to factors outside the control of the District. During the school year, the Board of Education adopted “Transitions between Remote and In-Person Learning” which identified three Levels in which the District would shift between Remote Learning [RL] (in whole/or in part) and In-Person Learning [IPL]. The Transitions included factors associated with the State Level, Regional or County Level, and/or at the Local Level.

During the course of the school year the District operated under Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan with a brief transition to a full adaptive pause in late November and returning to the IPL model for the last week prior to winter break. The adaptive pause fell under a Level 2 Transition based upon guidance from LaSalle IDPH that the positivity rate had increase to a level in which schools that were not following strict CDC mitigations should consider a shift to RL. Tonica Grade School’s reopening plan utilized the guidance regarding social distancing that was not a strict adherence to the CDC six (6) feet of distance at all time.

This Return to Learn Plan will provide parents information regarding the 2020 – 2021 school year response to COVID 19. It will include information regarding the In-Person Learning school day schedule, Remote Learning protocols, mitigation of COVID19 and plans to assist students regarding the impact on learning that occurred due to a reduction of In-Person Learning or Remote Learning.

At any time, Tonica Grade School may shift to a higher level or complete Remote Learning using Board of Education adopted “Transitions between Remote and In-Person Learning”

After reviewing this document and understanding Tonica’s reopening plan or attend the pre-announced hearing by the Tonica CCSD #79 Board of Education.

COVID 19 Mitigation Procedures

- TGS will follow any required personal health and safety guidance or requirements such as face coverings and social distancing
- Daily temperature checks will no longer be implemented unless an updated requirement come from ISBE, CDC or the IDPH
- Parents should still continue to be cognizant of COVID 19 symptoms for their children or in their household; the school should be contact prior to a student coming to school to seek guidance regarding attending school
- The district will follow recommendations for regular cleaning cycles and when heightened attention is required due to possible exposure to COVID19
- Sanitizing and disinfecting will be increased during the day with touch surfaces in all rooms being addressed before another group enters the space

- Water fountain drinking spouts will be deactivated as needed; however there are two bottle filling stations and students are encouraged to have a water bottle, with their name, for use at school that goes home daily for cleaning
- Increased hand washing opportunities will be provided
- Locker Rooms will not be used unless until clearance is provide through ISBE guidance. JH PE students would wear school clothes instead of PE uniforms but PE shoes are required.

IDPH Interim Guidance Regarding Exclusion for School

The most current guidance from IDPH will be utilized

As the Guidance is updated throughout the school the pathway to return to school is not outlined specifically in this plan; however, students that exhibit symptoms should not be sent to school. Please call the school to review the symptoms. As part of school protocols, the LaSalle County Department of Public Health will be consulted on a case by case basis or we will follow the return to school timeline for persons specifically provided by the department as close contacts or those that are positive or probable positive for COVID19.

Students may need to home during the day pending guidance provided by the IDPH related to exposure, close contact or displaying symptoms.

General Procedure – Temperature/Non Covid-19 Temperature

Tonica Grade School is revising its past procedure regarding students with a temperature at or above 100 degrees but not exceeding 100.4 degrees. Students may not return to school for 24 hours after being fever free without the use of fever reducing medicine plus an initial 24 hours to allow for fever reduction. Minimum days for a student to be out for this type of temperature is 2 school days but more until fever free without the use of fever reducing medicine.

School Calendar

Attached to this plan is the current board approved school calendar for 2021 – 2022. During the year it will be updated or amended pending the inclusion of any use emergency days or allowable remote learning planning days. The district may use an e-Learning day in place of an emergency day if sufficient time allows for students and staff to have the needed resources and tools to provide instruction.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extracurricular activities will be on a case by case basis using guidance from the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) in conjunction with ISBE and the IDPH.

In-Person Learning

For all Students Planned for 2021 – 2022

Adjustments pending based upon Guidance from the State, ISBE or IDPH

In-Person Daily School Hours

- Standard In-Person Day
 - Arrival 7:50
 - School day 8:10 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- Early Dismissals
 - 2:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. are included on the district calendar
- **Heat Dismissals**
 - Approximately 12:30 p.m. with lunch served (Announced at least a day in advance)

Safety and Health Related Protections

- If required by the State, ISBE or IDPH face covering is one that provides for droplet protection, loops around the ears or head, covers the nose, mouth and fits against the chin creating a containment pocket for the nose and mouth or is a two layer gaiter
- Face coverings will be required to be worn inside the building and/or outside the building based upon guidance provided to the district
- If face coverings are required there will be Face Breaks scheduled frequently during the day based upon student age and building conditions.
- Face Shields if there is a mandate for face coverings will be on a case by case basis and for students with a medical diagnosis indicating a face shield is needed in place of a face covering.

Arrival to School/Dismissal

- Arrival time 7:50; no student will be permitted to enter until 7:50
- Students gather in main gym if IDPH guidelines permit
- We anticipate going back to a more fluid drop off procedure allowing students to exit vehicles and enter the building without temperature checks; other procedures may be implemented pending guidance received by the school
- Walkers may enter at either the circle drive or main door (please do not drop off a student at the main door unless they are a late arrival after 8:10 a.m.)
- Elementary bus riders walked to bus; Junior High students dismissed
- Walkers will exit out the three main doors on the north side of the building

Health and Safety

- Social distancing will follow the current guidance in place from the State, ISBE or the IDPH
- Parents are responsible for keeping their child(ren) home for the times indicated if they are showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 as listed, or later revised, under the section of **IDPH Guidance Regarding Symptoms/Limiting Contact/Quarantine**
- Temperature checks and screening of students and staff will only be implemented if required to be part of a safety and health plan
- Cleaning and sanitizing protocols will follow IDPH guidelines when required

Diagnosed Case of Covid-19

- If there is a diagnosed case of COVID-19 the health department will contact the school and provide guidance regarding school operations and close contact exclusions
- Guidance regarding the definition of a close contact will be defined by ISBE or IDPH
- The school contact those determined to be close contacts as directed by IDPH

Transportation

- Bus health and temperature screenings are not planned to start the school year but may resume upon guidance from ISBE or IDPH
- Ridership capacity will be based upon ISBE or IDPH guidelines
- Bus riding may be suspended for a student that does not follow the rules associated with bus riding to include any required PPE or not staying in assigned seat
- In the event there are health screenings to board the bus, students will need a parent near the stop in case a student is not able to board. A parent may provide a release letter to allow a student in grades 5 through 8 (may also take a younger sibling) to return to their home if they are not able to board. If face coverings are required the bus **may have an extra to provide**; however, please know if face coverings are required it is the responsibility of parent to ensure their child(ren) are at the bus stop with a face covering. Failure to have a face covering may result in future bus service being suspended for a student.

Cafeteria – Lunch/Breakfast

- Student spacing will follow the most current guidance from ISBE or IDPH to include the requirement regarding face coverings
- Cafeteria staff will follow protocols for safe food handling and service
- Student home packed lunches need to have items that students can open and access all on their own.

Recess/PE - Outside

- Students may take their face coverings off if they maintain the designated amount of social distancing
- We realize that this may be difficult for younger students and the staff will manage the as best as possible

Remote Learning

The District remote learning for students that qualify under the ISBE guidance. The current, interim guidance defines eligibility for Remote Learning requires both of the following to be in place:

1. A student must not have a COVID-19 vaccination, ***and***
2. A student needs to be on a documented COVID-19 quarantine/isolation by the IDPH or medical provider

Students that do not qualify for remote learning but are on quarantine/isolation for 10 or more days may qualify for tutoring under a homebound/hospital program. The tutoring would be provided through the Remote Learning platforms during or after school hours pending the availability of school staff.

Remote Learning would be provided at a minimum via assignments being provided through on-line learning platforms such as ClassDojo, email or GoogleClassroom. When staffing is available a higher level of interactions may include assignment recordings for students to view or video/audio conferencing via ZOOM or Google Meets during or after school hours.

Attendance

Student attendance will generally follow three codes for Remote Learning

1. Full Day of Attendance: Student engages remotely for each assigned time and completes Remote Learning assignments/activities for that day
2. Half/Partial Day of Attendance: Student does not engage in all the Remote Learning times and does not complete all the Remote Learning assignments
3. Full Day Absent/Truant: Student had no engagement remotely with the teacher/staff and did not complete at least 50% of the daily assignments/activities.

Engagement/Assignments/Activities

Engagement is a required component of the revised Remote Learning Guidance from ISBE. Attendance and grading will be based upon engagement levels. Unexcused absences/truancy is required to be reported to the Regional Office of Education Attendance Program.

Students in Remote Learning are going to have as close to the same expectations of learning grade/subject level skills. Some work maybe altered or adjusted at the discretion of the teacher.

Technology

The District has sufficient devices to provide to students. Parents are responsible for the device and will be billed for any damage, loss or theft. Payment will be required before another device is issue. A police report will be required if the device is lost or stolen.

Student Learning Needs 2021 - 2022

The District is cognizant that due to the shortening of the In-Person Learning day and limitations of the amount of Remote Learning that could be provided there may be learning gaps in learning standard skills taught at Tonica Grade School. The following approaches to address gaps in learning are being considered or implemented:

- Summer Extension Learning Program (approx 3 weeks, students invited based upon need)
- Initiate a Daily Response to Intervention Program (RtI) for all students in the areas of Literacy, Math or Enrichment
- Expand staffing levels to address specific student need in a Tier 3 RtI supports program
- Increase availability of technology to allow students access to leveled intervention programs
- Integrate a Social Emotional Learning support program

