



July 24, 2020

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

I hope your children are enjoying summer break.

The Board approved Phase One (or Step One) of our reopening plan on July 14, 2020, based on the standard guidance we had at the time from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Yesterday, we received three key pieces of information that will help us complete the back to school learning plan, which we have called Phase Two (or Step Two). Those three key pieces of information include:

- A) Illinois State Board of Education's Return to Learn guidelines dated July 23, 2020
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-2020-Learning-Rec.pdf>
- B) Center for Disease Control Return to Learn guidelines dated July 23, 2020
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>
- C) Center Cass Parent Survey (completion rate of 75%) <http://www.ccsd66.org/>

Each of the documents have been linked for you. Highlights in relation to D66 include:

- Center Cass D66 is in compliance with new CDC guidelines for school reopening
- Center Cass D66 is in alignment with learning recommendations from ISBE
- Approximately 75% of Center Cass students indicated (via a parent) that they are returning to in-person school
- Approximately 25% of Center Cass students indicated (via a parent) that they are not returning to in-person schooling and are requesting a remote option
- 95% of Faculty and Staff plan to be here for in-person teaching (other 5% will be hired)

Taking into consideration all the new information received yesterday, I will be proposing the following plan to the Center Cass Board of Education on Thursday, August 6, 2020.

- An **In-Person Learning Model** that complies with ISBE, IDPH, and CDC guidelines (*Board approved Phase One*)
- A **Remote Delivery Option** for families, regardless of whether or not their student has a medical condition, not ready to return (*a synchronous model that complies with ISBE guidelines and follows the same student schedule as if student were inside the school*)
- A **Full Remote Learning Plan** in case the Governor or IDPH moves the District to remote learning (*a model with a blend of synchronous (live), asynchronous (video), and/or other learning modalities*)



We will be using the information received yesterday to:

- Develop the alternative Remote Delivery Option for Parents
- Develop the full Remote Learning Plan
- Develop the Phase Two (or Part Two) Return to Learn Reopening Plan
- Develop the Frequently Asked Questions
- Develop the Memorandum of Understanding with the Teaching Association

The draft documents above will be posted on-line by Tuesday, August 4th, prior to the August 6th, Board of Education meeting. Below is a timeline leading up to students' first day on Thursday, August 20th.

- Friday, July 31st - Details will be posted regarding August Board of Education Meeting
- Monday, August 3rd - District 66 Educational Steering Committee meets to review plans
- Tuesday, August 4th - District 66 Posts all Plans and Board Agenda on website to public
- Wednesday, August 5th - District 66 Full Board Packet released to public
- Thursday, August 6th - District 66 Board Meeting at 7:00 pm – Board votes on Plan

Pending Board Approval of the Plan:

- Friday, August 7th - District 66 Releases Final Parent Choice Survey (*In Person or Remote – Please note: You may select a different option than placed on the 07/19/2020 survey for Fall Semester, for operational purposes, we ask that your choice remain consistent for the semester*)
- Monday, August 10th - District 66 Parent Choice Survey and Registration closes at midnight
- Tuesday, August 11th - District 66 uses information to create class lists
- Wednesday, August 12th - District 66 uses information to create bus routing schedules
- Thursday, August 13th - District 66 creates parent letters with individual back to school info
- Friday, August 14th - District 66 sends parent letters with individual back to school info

We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we work through all of the new guidance which was released yesterday, and any additional guidance which will be forthcoming from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the DuPage County Department of Public Health. Answers to many of your questions will be inside the draft documents released on August 4th. The CDC and ISBE guidance linked in this letter support in-person learning during the pandemic (see research cited in their document/website). The remote option for parents will be much like the in-person learning, with a portion of the students participating from home. Not only will we be prepared for both the above options, but will also be ready to move to full remote should the District need to move fully remote.

The only way learning will thrive next year is with your help. I humbly request your positivity and partnership this August and beyond. Together, we can make the absolute best of a difficult situation. Our kids deserve the best from all of us, and most importantly, need to grow and learn.

Educationally Yours,

Andrew S. Wise

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