



AKIN SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2020-2021

Dear Parents and Students,

We would like to welcome you back to the 2020-2021 Academic School Year. As you may know, school will look a little different this year due to recent events. Please continue reading to learn more about how Akin Community Consolidated School District #91 is making changes to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff for the upcoming year.

School will start on August 10, and students will have the choice to learn in an in-person setting or a remote format. Both options will provide a rigorous and engaging learning experience. We understand that this may be a difficult decision for some families to make; therefore, we have provided you with as much information as possible in our Safe Return to School Plan to help you make your decision. Please note that this is a living and breathing document that is subject to change as the situation involving Covid-19 develops and we receive more information and recommendations from the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois State Department of Education. We will keep families informed of any changes. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the school at (618) 627-2180.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tammy McCollum
Superintendent

Instructional Delivery Option I: In-Person School

- Students in grades K-8 have the option to attend classes in an in-person setting.
- Each teacher will continue to offer a rigorous curriculum.
- Teachers will deliver face-to-face instruction but also maintain content and assignments online for possible short-term absences by students due to COVID-19 exposure or infection. K-2 teachers will use Seesaw, and 3-8 will use Google Classroom as the online platform for maintaining assignments. For students who must be out of school for short periods of time, our goal is to provide a seamless transition from the in-person classroom to a temporary online environment.



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Instructional Delivery Option II: Virtual Education

Students in grades K-8 have the option to remain at home and attend classes online. Students who select the remote education option, but decide they would like to return to in-person education may do so. However, students may not go back to remote education once switching to in-person. Please note that it is extremely important that students who participate in remote education are motivated learners who have access to regular adult support at home to ensure a successful learning experience. Students with an Individualized Education Plan, Gifted Education Plan, 504 Plan, and/or English Language Learner Plan will receive approved accommodations.

Remote Program Guidelines

- Instruction in core courses will be provided by dedicated remote education teachers using a combination of digital and traditional curricula combined with teacher led instruction that is delivered through video conferencing technology (i.e. Zoom).
- All course components will be organized in an online learning management system (i.e. Seesaw/Google Classroom).
- While students are permitted to work ahead in their online courses, they are expected, at a minimum, to complete all assignments on time and to participate in scheduled video conferencing sessions.
- Participation in online courses including required video conferencing sessions will be monitored, grades will be given, and attendance will be taken.
- Students may take tests associated with their courses at home.



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Arrival/Dismissal & After School Care

Upon arrival and during dismissal, social distancing guidelines will be followed as much as possible by utilizing the gym, cafeteria, hallways, and outside areas. All students will enter through one of the main entrances, and have their temperature taken upon entry. Students riding the bus will enter through the door by Dr. McCollum's office, and have their temperature taken upon entry.

Students will be dismissed from their classroom's outside door at 2:00 PM. Bus riders will be dismissed as usual.

Students that are not eating breakfast will be required to sit in the gym.

After school care will continue to be provided; including a combination of academic support from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, with latchkey and tutoring continuing from 3:00 - 4:30 PM.

Assemblies, Club Activities, Athletics, & Field Trips

At this point field trips, pep rallies, assemblies, and award ceremonies are not allowed. This decision will be re-evaluated as the school year progresses.

Club activities may be limited according with guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Athletic events will be scheduled and regulated in accordance to guidance provided by the SIJHSAA.

Child Nutrition Program

A rotation of cafeteria, classrooms, and outside dining areas will be used to promote social distancing during lunch.

Cafeteria tables will be sanitized between each lunch period.

In lieu of water fountains, students will have access to water bottle filling stations and are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles.

Classrooms and Transitioning between Classes

Students will sit facing the same direction, and desks will be separated as much as possible.

Personal instructional items (scissors, crayons, glue, etc.) should not be shared among students.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available in all classrooms.

Hallways will be divided into two lanes to provide greater social distancing.

Cleaning and Disinfecting of Buildings

IDPH approved sanitizer and disinfectant will be used for all routine cleanings.

High touch areas including desks, door handles/knobs, and water bottle fill stations will be disinfected throughout the day.



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Face Coverings

Face coverings are required to be worn in school buildings. **We understand that there are some exceptions.**

Face coverings do not need to be worn outside if social distance is maintained

The school will maintain and provide a supply of disposable face coverings for students, staff, and visitors in the event that a staff member, student, or visitor does not have one for use.

Student(s) may be required to transition to remote learning for refusing or showing disrespect to teachers and/or staff in regard to wearing face coverings.

Hand Hygiene

Students and staff are encouraged to wash hands frequently with soap and water.

Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the school and in each classroom.

Physical Education and Recess

Social distancing guidelines will be followed as much as possible by utilizing the gym and/or outside areas for activities.

PE lessons will primarily focus on personal fitness. Only games/sports with minimal physical contact will be played.

Playground equipment, weights, and other items used for PE/recess will be sanitized regularly.

School Calendar

School will start for all students, in-person and remote, on August 10, 2020.

If schools are closed unexpectedly, students will take their school issued devices home, and learning will continue in an online format with instruction provided by the students' classroom teachers.

Technology

All students in K-1 will be issued an iPad, and all students in 2-8 will be issued a Chromebook or ThinkPad.



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Transportation

School buses will operate normal routes.

Each driver will be provided with a face mask.

Students will have assigned seats; family members will be seated together.

All buses will unload from front to back to minimize student contact.

Drivers will open roof hatches and/or windows to keep fresh air circulating during the bus route.

All buses will be disinfected after each trip.

Visitors

Visitors will be limited. All visitors will check-in at the front office to complete a health survey including a temperature check, and will be required to wear a face covering.

When possible, parent/teacher meetings should be conducted using video conferencing technology.

In an effort to promote social distancing, lunch areas will be limited to students and staff.

Wellness Monitoring and Attendance

Parents should check their child's temperature every morning and keep their child at home if the child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher.

Parents should monitor their child for symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, congestion, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, chills, or gastrointestinal symptoms every morning and keep their child at home if their child has any of these symptoms.

Parents should notify the school as soon as possible if their child is staying home from school due to COVID-19. The school secretary will coordinate the excuse of COVID-19 related absences, and these absences will not impact truancy.

Any student who presents with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be quarantined until the student leaves the building.

In the case of a positive COVID-19 test of a student or staff member, school officials will follow current guidance of IDPH and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) regarding contact tracing, notification, disinfecting of buildings, and potential school closures.

This document was created based on guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control. Guidance can change as the situation with COVID-19 changes. As guidance changes, this document will be updated.

Revision: July 20, 2020