

SOUTHWESTERN

COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

Administrative Offices – 201 E. City Limits Rd., Brighton, IL 62012

“Southwestern Students Succeed”

DR. KEVIN E. BOWMAN
Superintendent

Phone (618) 372-3813
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Southwestern CUSD #9 School Opening Plan for 2023-2024

In order for public schools to have access to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, including the American Rescue Plan ESSER (ARP ESSER) program, each district must create a plan to safely re-open schools for the upcoming school year promoting the health and safety of students, staff, and the school community. This plan must be made available on the districts' website and offer a chance for public comment. Please know this plan could change after receiving feedback from our community, local health departments or as requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines change. Below are the required components of the plan. Please send all feedback regarding this plan to kbowman@piasabirds.net

- Length of School Day – The school day length and frequency will be the traditional schedule of 5 days per week from 8:00-3:10. The HS/MS will dismiss at 3:05 p.m. and the elementary schools will dismiss at 3:10 p.m. A calendar for the 2023-24 school year is located on our website at www.piasabirds.net
- In-Person Learning – All students enrolled in Southwestern CUSD #9 will return to in-person learning. An alternate learning option may be considered for those who can demonstrate through a physician's orders, that in-person attendance places the student or their household in peril.
- Face Coverings – Face coverings are optional in the school setting.
- Health & Safety – Temperature checks are no longer required of students nor staff upon boarding a bus or entering a building. Southwestern CUSD #9 will continue to monitor the health and well-being of staff and students. This includes contact tracing when a positive case is verified and providing prompt notification to the school community of positive COVID-19 cases while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights. We will also monitor our local health data closely, conferring with our local health departments on a regular basis.
- Cleaning/Sanitizing – To combat the spread of the virus, Southwestern CUSD #9 purchased, installed, and continues to use many tools to improve the safety for our students and staff. We will continue to utilize electrostatic sprayers which sanitize surfaces in all facilities and buses, hands-free bottle filling stations in lieu of water fountains as well as hand sanitizer dispensers installed throughout each facility. Each classroom is also equipped with sanitizing solution to clean surfaces throughout the day as needed.
- Transportation – Transportation will be offered to all eligible students.
- Continuity of Services – Southwestern CUSD #9 will continue to offer the full slate of services to which our learning community is accustomed including meeting students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, of which includes student health and food services.

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- Remote Learning – School must continue to provide remote learning to any student who is under isolation or quarantine for Covid-19 based on the State Superintendent’s Remote Learning Declaration. This option is not preferred by the school as this is not the best educational option. The school would prefer that all students attend in person unless there is a need to utilize remote learning. Any student who is on remote must have a doctor’s note.
- Review and Revision – All public schools must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services, and must seek and take public input into account in determining whether and what revisions are necessary.