

Return to School Plan



Last Update: June 5, 2024

No longer required to be updated as of 9-30-24

With Consideration of Guidance from

[ISBE](#), [IDPH](#) & [CDC](#)

ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education), IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health), CDC (Center for Disease Control)

PLAN SUMMARY

The purpose of this one page summary is to serve as a quick reference for key factors that help outline the contents of this document. For more in depth information please refer to the contents of the document.

1. School will be in session (in-person) 5 days per week. **Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. with classes beginning at 8:15 a.m. Bus riders and drivers will be dismissed at 3:05. Car riders will be dismissed at 3:10 and walkers as soon as the car riders line is gone.**
 - a. Remote learning will only be offered to those students who are ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine AND are under exclusion consistent with guidance from the Jefferson County Health Department.
2. **Masking will be utilized when required by state and federal guidelines based on current levels for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.**
 - a. **All passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses and in driver education vehicles at all times per. Federal guidelines**
3. **Students/Staff who have not been found to be COVID-19 positive and asymptomatic are not required to be excluded.**
4. Temperature checks and symptom screenings will be discontinued at school. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to make sure that the child(ren) is not showing symptoms of any illness including COVID-19 before sending them to school.
5. Good hand hygiene will be strongly encouraged at all grade levels.
6. Social distancing will be maintained in all school areas to the greatest extent possible. Three to six feet is recommended by IDPH/CDC.
7. We will continue to be diligent in the cleaning and disinfecting process. Custodians will follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and supplies.
8. Student meals will be free for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with USDA reimbursements. Students continue to receive free meals through CDP in 23-24.
9. Students will be issued individual Chromebooks/Laptops to prevent sharing.
10. Field trips and fundraisers will resume as they continue to be allowed.
11. Waltonville CUSD #1 shall reserve the right to limit nonessential visitors into the school.
12. The district will be prepared to adjust educational and athletic programming as necessary throughout the year.

Message from the Board of Education

Waltonville CUSD #1 has worked in conjunction with all Jefferson County School Superintendents, the WCUSD Board of Education, the district's legal firm, the Jefferson County Health Department, the Waltonville Education Association and the Waltonville Community to update the Return to School Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Our greatest goal is to return to full day, Monday-Friday student attendance. As we continue to update this plan amidst the current and evolving challenges, we looked at the successes of our previous school year and have updated our protocols for the 2023-2024 school year accordingly. The updates to the protocols in this plan continue to consider the most recent guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and Center for Disease Control (CDC).

This plan has been developed in accordance with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 9, 2021. The plan is aligned with guidance provided by the IDPH and CDC. It also addresses adjustments that may be needed in response to evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. This guide outlines the educational plans and protocols in place for the entire school year. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, it is possible the district will have to modify this plan during the school year.

Please note: protocols outlined in this guide are subject to change as guidelines continue to evolve. At a minimum, this guide will be reviewed and updated no less than every six months as required by the ARP Act.

RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

Phase 1 Rapid Spread	Phase 2 Flattening	Phase 3 Recovery	Phase 4 Revitalization	Phase 5 Illinois Restored
Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place, and only essential businesses remain open. Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.	Non-essential retail stores reopen for curb-side pickup and delivery. Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating & fishing while practicing social distancing.	Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions. Gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.	Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.	The economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing. Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Following guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Waltonville CUSD #1 has developed health protocols to allow an expansion of in-person learning. A strong emphasis will be placed on practicing good hygiene among students, staff, and visitors, which includes frequent handwashing and sanitization of buildings.

Contact Tracing / Isolation / Quarantine / Exclusion

- Individuals who show symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day are to immediately report to or be escorted to the nurse's office. Students will either be sent home or be quarantined in the nurse's office while awaiting pickup/evaluation Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.
- Student absences related to a COVID-19 quarantine / exclusion will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence must be made up; social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs.
- Remote learning will be made available for all students who are under quarantine/exclusion. This remote learning will look different than last year. These absences will look more like a traditional excused absence. Students under quarantine / exclusion will be provided with work from their actual class. Students are expected to turn in assignments upon return to school unless other arrangements have been made with administration.
- Waltonville CUSD #1 will work with the local health department and state health guidelines regarding school closure.
- As new guidance emerges, guidelines may change.
- Contact tracing/isolation/quarantine/exclusion will not occur for asymptomatic students who have not been found to be COVID-19 positive.

Reporting Illness

When reporting illness absences, be sure to report if your child:

- Is a close contact of someone with a positive COVID-19 test.
- Has signs of COVID-19.
- Has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Has been diagnosed with influenza (respiratory flu).

Social / Physical Distancing

- Classroom seating will be at least three feet apart when possible and face the same direction as feasible. Students will be provided with assigned seating in their classroom if vaccination levels reach a level of concern..
- Throughout the school buildings it is important to maintain three feet of physical distance from other persons as much as possible. This expectation pertains to students and staff

members in all areas and settings to the greatest extent possible. Visual reminders will be posted throughout school buildings. There will be signage as indicators of safe distances in areas where students congregate or line up.

- Each school will coordinate bus loading and unloading, hall passing periods, mealtimes, bathroom breaks, etc. to provide for student and staff safety. Students and staff should continue to limit physical contact.
- Students will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional space for mealtime seating will be utilized when available and feasible.

Mask Use

- In compliance with CDC / IDPH, all passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses and in drivers education vehicles when specified by state and local guidelines.
- As is the case with everything in this document, if we see changes in transmission rates or new guidance is issued, mask requirements could increase.
- Masks are strongly recommended (but not required) for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.
- Students and staff who wish to take advantage of shortened quarantine times (5 days) must fully mask for an additional 5 days.
- Each Student and staff member who wishes to continue with mask wearing will be given access to up to two district provided N95 masks until further notice. The district will provide two weeks notice if at any time it decides to discontinue offering N95 masks. The district will only be responsible for providing the mask and is not responsible for fit testing/training for proper use of N95 masks.
- Teachers, staff members and building administrators should continue to monitor and advocate for those who wish to continue to be masked. Negative comments about or to mask wearers will not be tolerated.

Hygiene

- Good hygiene including respiratory etiquette, will be a regular topic with our students.
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff and students must clean hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. In situations where soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used.
- Staff and students should avoid touching their mouth, eyes, or nose as much as possible.
- Hand sanitizer is available in common areas and classrooms throughout each school building. Staff and students should use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom.
- Each building has signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas.

Visitors

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated are discouraged from entering schools. Those who are essential must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status when vaccination thresholds require occupants to be masked.

Testing

→ Testing at school is currently suspended.

Collaboration with Public Health Officials

→ District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with the Jefferson County Health Department officials on various logistics and decision-making including but not limited to school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, and emergency school closings.

INSTRUCTION

Attendance/Drop-off/Pick-up

Students will be attending school five days a week and will begin and end the day at normal school times. Student in-person attendance times Monday - Friday: 8:15-3:20

- Students cannot be dropped off for school prior to 7:30 am.
- Bus riders and high school drivers will be dismissed at 3:05.
- Car riders will begin being dismissed at 3:10
- Walkers will be dismissed as soon as the car riders line is gone.

*** These times are subject to be adjusted slightly as we attempt to ensure this practice is as efficient as possible while taking into account the safety of our students and staff.*

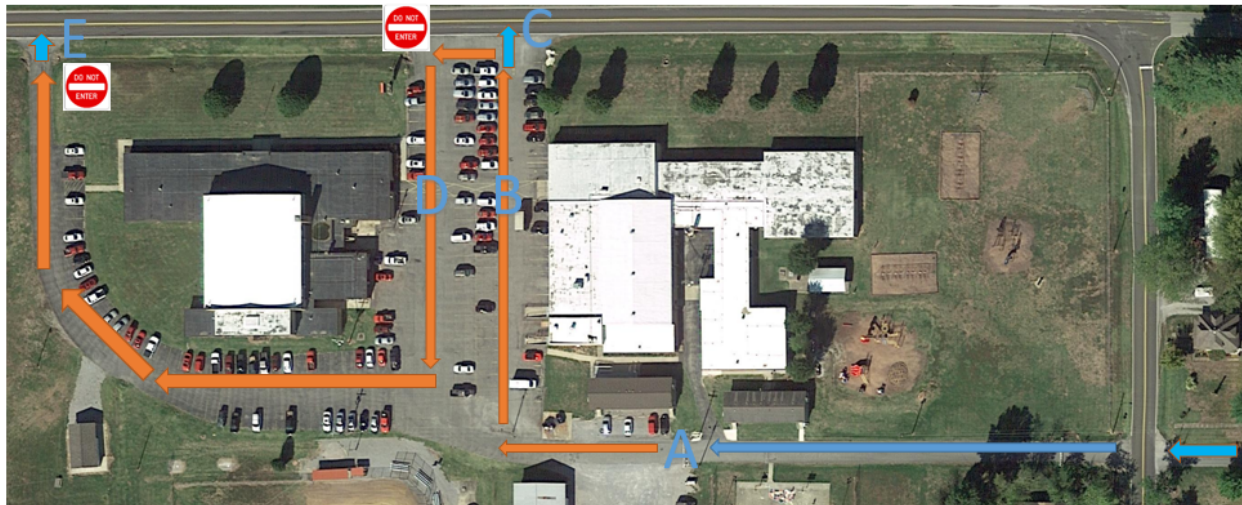
With feedback from the community and staff, the district had determined that a change in the drop-off/pick up process is needed to provide a better flow to traffic. Please be patient as we attempt to implement our new procedures. The cooperation and patience of parents and students will be key to the success of these processes.

MORNING DROP-OFF



1. During morning drop-off cars will only be able to enter along Union street (coming by the bus barn) **A**. All other entries will be marked exit only and be coned off.
2. Students being dropped off at both the grade school and high school will be dropped off at **B**. Buses will drop off both HS and GS students at **A**. HS students will cross to the HS at **B**.
3. After dropping off students, all drivers will proceed to exit **C**.
4. High School drivers will proceed through area **D** and to their designated parking spot.
5. High school drivers who have elementary car riders should:
 - a. Drop off at **A**, and proceed through **D**

AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP



1. During pickup cars will only be able to enter along Union Street (coming by the bus barn). All other entries will be marked exit only and be coned off.
2. Gate (**A**) will remain closed until buses are lined up at **B**. Students from both grade school and high school who ride the bus will be dismissed along with high school drivers first at 3:05
3. After buses exit at **C**, both grade school and high school students who are being picked up will begin being called and subsequently being picked up at **B & D**
4. If a family only picks up grade school students, they may exit at **C**.
5. If the family picks up only high school or grade school and high school, they will continue to follow the path picking up grade school at B and high school at **D** then exit at **E**.
6. Once pick-up has completed, walkers from the grade school and high school will be released.

Devices and Access

Waltonville CUSD #1 will implement a 1:1 device program for students in grades K-12. Each building will communicate their plan for device dissemination.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

The effects of COVID-19 have only increased our students' need for an increased focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). We will continue to work to increase our students' exposure to SEL curriculum with an intentional focus on student's emotional health which may be impacted by COVID-19. Other SEL supports will be developed to provide assistance to our students as

needed. Teachers and staff will continue to monitor and identify students who may need additional support or interventions.

Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

Waltonville CUSD #1 in consultation with the Franklin-Jefferson County Special Education Cooperative will make every effort to fully implement the Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans of our students during COVID-19. Parents of students with IEPs or 504 plans and need additional support should contact your student's teacher.

TRANSPORTATION AND BUILDING OPERATIONS

Transportation

- ➔ Waltonville CUSD #1 will work to ensure busing procedures are in compliance with all applicable expectations under state and federal guidelines.
- ➔ All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering when required by state and federal guidelines..
- ➔ Students may only ride the bus they are assigned to and may only get off at their designated stop. No "bus pass" requests will be considered.
- ➔ Students will be assigned a seat and must remain in that assigned seat each day.
- ➔ Buses will be sanitized multiple times each day. Sanitizing products will meet the EPA criteria and be used according to manufacturers' guidelines.
- ➔ Masks will be utilized when required during transportation of all school students, staff, and drivers per Federal guidelines.

Food Service

- ➔ Breakfast and lunch plans will be building specific and will follow the guidance provided by local, state and federal guidelines.
- ➔ These plans may be revised throughout the year per local information and revisions to the guidelines.
- ➔ Per the extension of a USDA waiver, all students will receive free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year. Students continue to receive free breakfast and lunch in 23-24.

Facilities

- ➔ Waltonville CUSD #1 has established increased cleaning and disinfection protocols at all district buildings that align with the ISBE, IDPH, and CDC recommendations.
- ➔ Performed each day by the district custodians after students are dismissed, daily cleaning includes disinfecting all desks and chairs, trash removal, spot cleaning of floors and surfaces, and room inspections.

- The district is using disinfectants that are proven effective and registered with the EPA. These chemicals also comply with the district's safety standards.

COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, Waltonville CUSD #1 will utilize the following communication methods to keep stakeholders up to date on any changes regarding protocols:

- Waltonville CUSD #1 website
- Waltonville Spartans App
- Phone and text alerts through our Teacherease
- Waltonville CUSD #1 social media (Facebook and Twitter)

The district will communicate transmission and current positive cases/quarantine of students and staff through a graph located on the front page of the [district website](#). This will be updated daily.

All parents/guardians who wish to receive communication should ensure that email addresses and phone numbers are up to date when completing the registration process or by calling your child's school for assistance from a building secretary.

PLAN REVISIONS & PUBLIC INPUT

Plan revisions will be made, at a minimum, every six months as required by the American Rescue Plan. Prior to any revisions, the district will seek public input through surveys or open comments. Stakeholders will be notified of opportunities to provide input through district social media postings and the Teacherease email portal.

Last update of this plan: June 5, 2024; Board Approved: January 25, 2024

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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