



Calhoun CUSD 40

Return to Learn Plan

Highlights for the 2020-2021 School Year

Forward

To the Families and Staff of Calhoun CUSD #40:

We would like to take this opportunity to offer some information in regards to the beginning of the new school year as our planning continues. Currently, it is the intent of Calhoun CUSD #40 to begin the 2020-2021 school year with in-person instruction. The information in this plan outlines the steps the District will take to ensure we provide as safe of a learning environment as we can for our students and staff. This plan follows the Illinois State Board of Education's guidelines found at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf

Each building will have procedures and protocols specifically to meet the requirements of the Return to Learn Plan and included in the comprehensive plan that will be published in August. Please know the plan is considered a "living document" and will change as we receive further guidance from ISBE. If the health of our region declines, or we cannot safely follow ISBE guidelines, we will likely change from in-person to remote instruction. Provided below is the outline of the return for Calhoun CUSD #40 students and staff.

Your patience and cooperation is much appreciated as it is going to take the community and school working together to create a successful year. The students in our district deserve the absolute best we can give them. Your efforts to work with us do not go unnoticed! Please stay tuned through the school web page, Facebook page, and contact made through School Messenger. Upcoming videos and FAQ pages will be posted soon.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lee

Superintendent

Calhoun CUSD #40

School Schedule

School will be in session Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The school year will start on August 17, 2020 for staff and the first student attendance day is August 20, 2020. There will be a Remote Learning day held on September 4, 2020. This is a planning day for staff and also an opportunity for the district to have a “practice run” for online learning. Students will be given a schedule of what to expect that day from home.

Health and Safety

Calhoun CUSD #40 will abide by the ISBE guidelines for returning to in-person learning.

- All staff and students will be required to wear face masks while inside the schools and on buses. We will continue to monitor guidelines on whether face shields will be allowable. Every attempt will be made to allow students to safely remove their masks at appropriate times during the school day such as recess, meals, and outdoor activity. If a face mask cannot be worn for medical reasons, a physician’s note will need to be on file. In addition, we are asking for families to send in a reusable mask for each child. The school has ordered one for every student and staff member through the State of Illinois, but they have not been received. There also will be disposable ones available to use as needed.
- Social distancing of 6 ft. when possible.
- No more than 50 people gathering in one space. (Gym, bus, hallway, etc.)
- All staff and students will be required to have a health screening or self-certification of health upon entering buildings. District #40 is attempting to streamline this process. We will require each family to self-certify students every day and report the certification before the school day begins. Self-certification includes a temperature check and a list of questions that need answered. There are currently organizations working on creating an app to assist families in this process.

- The district will have safety protocols in place if students or staff become ill. The detailed steps will be included in the comprehensive plan that will be published in August.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Emphasis will be placed on high touch surfaces and common areas. Restrooms, cafeterias, and other common areas will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day. Additional hand sanitizer dispensers have been added throughout the schools and handwashing times will be scheduled.
- Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles and filling stations are available at each school.
- Classrooms will be organized to space students apart to the greatest extent possible while retaining educational function. It is not possible to have students six feet apart at all times, however items have been removed to allow for additional spacing of desks and tables where feasible.
- Visitors to the school will be extremely limited. All visitors will be required to wear a mask while inside the school and also be subject to a health screening.

Academics

In-person instruction will be offered to all students each day following the Monday-Friday 8:00-2:00 schedule. We believe that in-person instruction is most beneficial for our students; not only academically but also for their social/emotional well-being. Calhoun #40 is also prepared to offer a remote learning plan. The district would prefer that all students attend in-person unless there is a medical need to utilize remote learning. Keep in mind that if there is a change in the phases in the State of Illinois, all students could return to remote learning.

If a family decides on remote learning, the following applies:

- Any family that chooses to enroll in the remote learning option must commit to remote learning for the entire 1st Quarter. Families will be allowed to change from remote to in-person at the end of that time.
- Families must still register for school and also contact each school that their child(ren) attends to let them know of their remote learning choice. **This must be completed by August 7th.** A remote learning checklist will be reviewed with the parents at that time.

- For a family to enroll in the remote option, they will need to have internet and a device that allows students to participate in video-conferencing. Chromebooks and hot spots are available for check-out at the schools.
- Please note that some high school courses may not be able to be taught virtually.
- The remote learning may include students remoting in while the class is taking place. We are checking these capabilities.
- Unlike remote learning in the Spring, students will return to traditional grading practices.
- The safety of ALL students and staff is the responsibility of the district. *The administration reserves the right to place a student on remote learning if safety protocols continue to not be followed.*

Transportation

We are asking families to transport their students on a daily basis if they are capable to do so. This action will alleviate social distancing issues on our bus and potentially keep the district from having to implement multiple routes (early/late routes) to the same location. Masks must be worn on the bus. Members of the same family will be asked to sit together and assigned seating will be given on each route. If parents are able to drop their son/daughter off at school, it should not be before 7:45 a.m.

Food Service

Breakfast and lunch will be served at school. There may be a change in menus from the past and some meals may be eaten in other locations other than the cafeteria. These procedures follow both state and federal guidelines.