

Steward Elementary School District #220 Return to School Learning Plan

In order to maximize student educational opportunities, our school district is devoted to providing in-person instruction if and when at all possible. Toward that end, our health and safety guidelines will be guided by the informed health professionals at the Lee County Health Department, the Illinois Department of Public Health. As health conditions, vaccinations, and overall high-risk conditions improve, this plan will evolve with the intent of becoming less restrictive as Lee County risk levels are reduced.

Our Return-to-School Plan includes:

- Universal masking on school transportation; utilizing ventilation of open windows as long as weather permits
- Universal masking in all classrooms for students and adults
- Social distancing of at least 3 feet in all learning areas, as well as the cafeteria.
- Lunch schedules and cafeteria seating rearranged to allow for unmasked students to be facing the same direction while eating
- Accessing free COVID testing kits for use at school and home as they become available
- Increased use of sanitation supplies within classrooms, public areas, restrooms, and cafeteria.
- Universal masking at all public-school events as well as among athletes and coaches
- Following IDPH guidelines regarding period of at-home quarantine for COVID positive students, school personnel and close contacts

As this original plan evolves, parents/guardians and the public will be informed through notes sent home, newsletters, and other forms of public communication. The Board of Education will continue to review these policies as recommendations and guidance from public health authorities adapt and change to meet the needs of this national health crisis.