



Dear SPEED S.E.J.A. District 802 Parents/Guardians,

We are pleased to announce that SPEED S.E.J.A. District 802 will return to full in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

This decision aligns with a May 19, 2021, [resolution from the Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#). The unanimously passed resolution supports a planned declaration by Illinois State Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala that all Illinois schools must return to full in-person learning for all student attendance days in the 2021-2022 school year. We are committed to opening our schools for all students for in-person instruction on **Monday, August 16, 2021**.

We also know that some students have medical conditions or health care needs that place them at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Therefore, next year, SPEED S.E.J.A. District 802 students may be eligible for remote learning if the district receives confirmation from a licensed physician that the student is at increased risk of severe illness or has special health care needs. If your child may be best served in a remote learning setting due to their medical condition or health care needs, you may request remote learning programming for him/her by contacting Principal Amina Payne at (708) 481-0505 ext. 3601 or at apayne@speed802.org and requesting the *Certification of Need for District Remote Learning Services* form. Completed forms from families who request their child attend school remotely must be submitted to Principal Amina Payne by **Friday, July 30, 2021**.

Placement into remote learning for any student is subject to District review and approval. Upon review, parents/guardians will be informed if the application has been approved or denied. Please be advised that if additional information is needed, the District may ask for the parent/guardian to sign a Release of Information to speak with the medical professional. Families should note that remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year will be designated to one full semester without option to return to in-person learning during that time, with a requirement for each family to renew the *Certification of Need for District Remote Learning Services* prior to the start of the second semester if necessary.

Finally, many are wondering how the coming months will impact in-person learning at school next year for our students. On July 9, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools ([CDC Guidance for Schools 7-9-21](#)). The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as well as the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) has announced that they are “fully adopting the updated CDC recommendation. Key highlights of this guidance are as follows:

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.

SPEED 802 is planning to return in the Fall to full in-person learning while adhering to 3 ft. social distancing and maintaining universal masking (where everyone wears mask indoors regardless of vaccination status). We will also be utilizing screening testing to help decrease potential transmission. Finally, all other comprehensive prevention strategies such as handwashing, respiratory etiquette, contact tracing and cleaning/disinfecting will remain a part of our efforts to keep our students and staff safe. We anticipate that the situation will continuously evolve in the days leading up to the start of the school year. However, we are confident that our team will make appropriate adjustments and your Principal will share information related to specifics of school opening plans to ensure the safety of our SPEED family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tina Halliman
Superintendent
SPEED S.E.J.A. District 802