

**Pekin Public Schools District 108
Reopening Transition Plan
for August-October 2020**

July 20, 2020

Executive Summary



Pekin Public Schools has developed a Reopening Transition Plan for the 2020 – 2021 school year. In spring of 2020, the COVID- 19 pandemic resulted in the immediate early closure of schools across Illinois. In March, Pekin Public Schools implemented Pekin 108’s Phase I for Remote Learning. A team of school coaches and administrators created Remote Learning packets for all PreK-8 students in the district. Phase II of Remote Learning, which included devices deployed to Grade 3-8 students for online remote learning, began in April. Despite incredible efforts by teachers and staff, it reinforced that in person student learning cannot be duplicated with remote meetings or online conferencing. The value of in person student and teacher interaction is key to student success and learning. The State of Illinois recognizes this fact and allows for students to return to in person learning during phases 3 & 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan adopted by Governor J.B. Pritzker. This plan further states that Illinois schools must follow approved safety guidance from the IDPH for re-opening.

In July, Pekin Public Schools formed a Reopening Transition Task Force. The purpose of this task force was **to provide input for developing a learning model that meets ISBE/IDPH requirements and maximizes safety for all students, staff, and faculty while meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students.** The task force reviewed available information, discussed options, and provided input for a reopening plan.

Next, the Central Office Administrators met with all service providers. These meetings included Aramark, ABBCO, Pekin Bus Company, Tazewell County Health Department, and Unity Point. Each service provider collaboratively developed their own plans that support the reopening of Pekin 108 Schools.

Pekin Public Schools District 108 has developed a blended learning model which places student and staff safety as a priority. The intent of the blended model is to allow students to attend school in person while maintaining CDC and IDPH guidelines for physical distancing through a reduced number of students in each building. By reducing student numbers, physical distancing will have the best opportunity for success. This can reduce the risk of an increase in the spread of COVID-19 to students and adults throughout the community. Each school would be responsible for developing their own unique physical distancing plans for their building. Face coverings for all individuals would be required. This requirement is subject to change as these guidelines evolve. 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 throughout the day.

The first day of school for the blended learning model will be Thursday, August 20, 2020 for students in Group A and Friday, August 21, 2020 for students in Group B. Families will have the option of

choosing a 9-week full trimester of remote learning schedule during registration in July and August. Having an additional phase at the end of the first trimester allows Pekin Public Schools to assess our current COVID-19 strategies.

The following document outlines the details of the Pekin Public Schools 108 reopening plan and the supporting plans from all service providers. The document is divided into five sections. These sections are *Health and Safety, Human Resources, Technology, Instruction, and Operations*.