



SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF PEORIA COUNTY
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2020-2021 Cooperative-wide Return to School Plan for SEAPCO

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SEAPCO provides programming to many students throughout Peoria County. This plan will be separated into two sections. The first section addresses programming housed in member districts, such as Early Childhood Education (ECE) classroom, Life Skills (LS) classrooms, Instructional Classrooms, and classrooms for students with Emotional Dysregulation (ED) classrooms. These will fall under the heading of District Center-based Programs. The second section addresses programming housed within the SEAPCO building, including SEAPCO Academy (SA), SEAPCO RISE, and the Developmental Classroom (DC). These will fall under the heading of SEAPCO Programs.

Our Vision

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, our communities are healthy and connected, and all students are receiving high quality instruction that meets their needs.

Guiding Principles

- Keeping students and staff safe and healthy
- Ensuring access and equity for all students
- Maintaining continuity of instruction
- Communicating with stakeholders, such as staff, families, bargaining units, and community partners
- Ensuring flexibility to meet the needs and advocate for all students, while maintaining fiscal solvency

Minimum Public Health Requirements for In-Person Learning

The requirements below will be required of all public schools for in-person learning during Restore Illinois Phase 4, and it is our expectation that this will be followed by all our staff, students, and visitors. These expectations will be the expectations for any building or district housing SEAPCO programs.

- Face coverings required for all staff, students, and visitors
- No more than 50 individuals gathered in one space
- Require social distancing observed as much as possible
- Require symptom screening or self-certification before entering a building
- Require increased school wide cleaning and disinfecting
 - In order to keep students and staff safe and healthy, SEAPCO has used guidance and recommendations from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Peoria City/County Health Department (PCCHD), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to develop the plan for SEAPCO staff and for the re-opening of the programs housed in our building.

District Center-based Programs

Return to School Plans

- Every district has a Return to school Plan that is unique to that district. It is the expectation that SEAPCO staff follow the Return to School Plan for the district. Special consideration has been given to center-based programs to allow them to operate 4 or 5 days a week, in order to provide the greatest level of continuity of in-person instruction to students in these programs. Staff, students, and families will follow the guidelines specific to that school for safety measures, operational practices and procedures, calendar and schedules. Due to the nature of the classroom and needs of the students there, additional protective factors may be in place (ie. additional PPE or cleaning protocols).
- Specifics about each plan as it relates to students in SEAPCO programs will be shared by the serving school administration as well as the SEAPCO administration. They are working in conjunction to develop plans that meet the needs of all students, and will work together to communicate these plans to staff and families.
- The unique needs of students as they relate to the mitigating factors (ie. face coverings and social distancing) will be addressed at a program/class level, as well as individually for students as needed; following the processes or procedures described in the Return to School Plan

- Families of students in these programs that choose a Remote Learning option will work with the special education administrator and/or teacher to determine if a Remote Learning Plan or Home/Hospital program is best suited for that child. Details of Remote Learning Plans will be shared with the parents, and an IEP meeting held if necessary to individualize plans to meet the unique needs of the student

Staff Expectations

- Staff is expected to follow the re-opening plans for the districts/schools in which they work. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Following all Wellness Protocols for the school, and those that are specific to their classroom or position placement; deferring to the protocols that provide the most protections to staff and students
 - Teaching and supporting students in their use of safety equipment or protocols (ie. masks, not sharing items, etc)
 - Teaching and supporting students in their use of social distancing
 - Following the school's Social and Emotional Support plan through the use of curriculum, instruction, and behavioral supports targeted in this area
 - Maintaining the continuity of instruction or therapy within the safety 'bubble' protocols established in that school
 - Maintaining the continuity of instruction or therapy through the virtual learning plans set forth by the school
 - Engaging in frequent communication with families, staff, and administration
 - Providing and planning for flexibility in their scheduling and instruction/support of student in their care
 - Engaging in district-delivered staff trainings to support the school Remote Learning Plans
 - Being 'Remote Ready' through pre-planning in case of a need to shut down a class temporarily due to a positive COVID case. Providing remote learning to students on their caseload who have chosen this option or are in quarantine or isolation that aligns with the district plan
 - Communicating with both local and special education administration to ensure a consistent and effective application of the Return to School plan for the staff and students in their classroom

SEAPCO Programs

Programs housed within the SEAPCO building include SEAPCO RISE & DC on the office (east) side of the building, and SEAPCO Academy on the west side of the building. A SEAPCO Central Office Return to School plan has been developed that applies specifically to these programs.

Staff Expectations

- Staff is expected to follow the SEAPCO Central Office Return to School plan. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Following all Wellness Protocols, and those that are specific to their classroom or position placement; deferring to the protocols that provide the most protections to staff and students
 - Teaching and supporting students in their use of safety equipment or protocols (ie. masks, not sharing items, etc)
 - Teaching and supporting students in their use of social distancing
 - Following the Social and Emotional Support plan through the use of curriculum, instruction, and behavioral supports targeted in this area
 - Maintaining the continuity of instruction or therapy within the safety 'bubble' protocols established in that program
 - Maintaining the continuity of instruction or therapy through the virtual learning plans set forth by the program
 - Engaging in frequent communication with families, staff, and administration
 - Providing and planning for flexibility in their scheduling and instruction/support of student in their care
 - Engaging in SEAPCO-delivered staff trainings to support the Remote Learning Plans appropriate for their program
 - Being 'Remote Ready' through pre-planning in case of a need to shut down a class temporarily due to a positive COVID case. And providing remote learning to students on their caseload who have chosen this option or are in quarantine or isolation
 - Communicating with both local and special education administration to ensure a consistent and effective application of the Return to School plan for the staff and students in their classroom

Student Expectations

- Students are expected to follow the SEAPCO Central Office Return to School Plan. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Following the Wellness Plan, including wearing a mask, following social distancing directives, and using good hand hygiene, etc
 - Students will follow the School Handbook and Return to School Plan in regards to behavior and academics
 - Any student who does not follow these expectations will be held accountable academically and behaviorally
 - Any student who jeopardizes the safety or health of a student or staff member will be subject to disciplinary action and potential removal of in-person learning. (Example spitting, biting, intentionally coughing, intentionally sneezing, refusing to wear a face covering, refusing to wash hands, refusing to maintain social distance, etc...)
 - Students will engage in academic lessons whether held in person or virtually and communicate with their teachers if they have any questions either in person or through Google Classroom

Virtual Learning

- Technology: Chromebooks will be provided to students for use at home during blended or remote learning if no compatible devices are available at home
 - Students and parents/guardians will be required to sign an acceptable use policy
 - Parents/guardians are responsible for providing internet access for their students. Please contact the administration if circumstances interfere with the ability to provide this. All efforts will be made to accommodate and ensure equity of educational opportunities for students.
 - Families of students with unique needs may create specific Individualized Remote Learning Plans that best meet their needs; these will be created with the input of the educational team and parents/guardians
- Attendance during Remote Learning Periods
 - During remote learning periods, students will be required to log onto Google Classroom or other arranged modes of instruction specific to their unique needs

- Attendance will be generated through this engagement in the learning platform
- A log or data that reflects the student's engagement will be kept to monitor student engagement and participation in remote learning activities
- Transition and Training
 - Remote Learning Planning days will be used at the beginning of the school year to ensure staff have the tools and training necessary to provide a robust remote learning environment. Additional Remote Learning Planning days may be used throughout the school year to ensure continued levels of robust remote instruction is available
 - During the few weeks of in-person instruction, students will be instructed on how to use the virtual platform and practice it with the staff in order to provide the best transition to that mode of instruction
 - Specifics for each individual plan, classroom level or school level plan will be communicated to parents/guardians

Parent/guardian Virtual Learning Expectations

- Parents are responsible for providing internet access for students to access their virtual lessons or requesting assistance if circumstances interfere with their ability to do this.
- Assure that your student has logged in to Google Classroom for attendance and learning purposes each day. If student is unable to participate virtually due to illness or other reason contact the school to report the absence
- Verify student has completed daily virtual assignments
- Assist student as needed with virtual learning
- Correspond with teacher when needed
- Ensure students engage in virtual learning with academic honesty
- Care for chromebook