

# SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

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Superintendent

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Dear SEDOL Community,

Last week, I shared with you a plan to begin the school year with opportunities for students to start in a blended/hybrid model. In addition, the plan allowed parents to have a choice to register their students for a full remote learning environment. Our team has spent countless hours over the past weeks trying to navigate the logistics and scheduling in order to meet as many scheduling needs for our students and families as possible. In addition, we have continued to monitor the rate of COVID cases in the Lake County Area.

Currently, 23 of our 31 or 74% of SEDOL member districts have either formally recommended or plan to recommend shifting their hybrid plans to full remote plans to begin the school year. This is for a few key reasons. As of yesterday, the rate of COVID positivity has continued to increase in our region per the Illinois Department of Public Health. Both of these metrics have increased my concern when planning to bring students and staff back into the building. The Lake County Health Department has shared that at 8% mitigation steps should be taken to directly support the limiting of contact of individuals. Although we are not at the 8% mark as a county, there are variances throughout the county which shows higher positivity rates. Also, the planning for students and staff to maintain 6 feet apart for less than 15 minutes is nearly impossible to plan for especially in our setting with increased staffing to support individual student needs. The latest update on the definition of close contact has shifted it from being 15 minutes within a 24 hour period to 15 minutes within a 2 day period when symptoms are present. This increase of time regarding close contact will increase the amount of contact tracing if there is a positive case by having all staff keep track of their own and students contact greater than 15 minutes within 2 days. This level of detail will be difficult for all staff. Based on this information, I feel SEDOL needs to begin the school year fully remote for students following the SEDOL calendar and evaluate data every two weeks until our region experiences consistent decreases of COVID positivity prior to bringing additional staff and students to the school buildings.

The adjusted plan below includes information regarding each of the SEDOL programs. The metrics and this plan will be reviewed bi-weekly and a determination will be made regarding the action steps to be effective two weeks in advance for those programs following the SEDOL calendar. Both the metrics and the action steps will be shared with the SEDOL community on a bi-weekly basis.

Where:	Who:	Effective Date:	Plan:
Administrative Building	Audiology	8/3/2020	Cease bringing in students for evaluation until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8/2020.
Administrative Building	11 and 12 month	8/3/2020	Follow 8/3 to 9/8 A/B

	administrative assistant/clerical staff		schedule, but Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all clerical staff for cleaning and staff will work remotely. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8. Permission for altered days, to cover essential needs, is arranged with Peggy Lynch.
District Wide	SEDOL Administrative Team (SAT)	8/3/2020	4 days in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all SAT staff for cleaning
Cyd Lash Academy (CLA) - ED Alt, Voc, Transition REACH and Gages Lake School (GLS) ED Alt, SAB	All instructional and program staff	8/13/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All programs will start remote for staff and students.</li> <li>• Staff return to the work on site 4 days a week in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8.</li> <li>• Students will return to campus with the Hybrid Phase 4b will start on 10/19/2020 if there continues to be a consistent decrease of positivity within the region.</li> </ul>
Fairhaven School and Laremont School	All instructional and program staff	8/13/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All programs will start remote for staff and students.</li> <li>• Staff return to the work on site 4 days a week in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8.</li> <li>• Students will return to campus with Distance</li> </ul>

			<p>Learning and Specialized Services on 9/14/2020 if there continues to be a consistent decrease of positivity within the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will return to campus with the Hybrid Phase 4b will start on 10/19/2020 if there continues to be a consistent decrease of positivity within the region.</li> </ul>
JPC	DHH EC to 8th grade Instructional and program supports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students are attending virtually.</li> <li>• Staff return to the work on site 4 days a week in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8. Note this is different from District 73.</li> <li>• District 73 and SEDOL will determine metrics for onsite programming including specialized supports (speech articulation, audiology, OT, PT)</li> </ul>
JPC	Transition Supported and Community instructional and program support staff	8/13/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All programs will start remote for staff and students.</li> <li>• Staff return to the work on site 4 days a week in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8.</li> <li>• Students will return to campus with the Hybrid Phase 4b will start on</li> </ul>

			10/19/2020 if there continues to be a consistent decrease of positivity within the region.
Project SEARCH at the SEDOL Administrative Building	Instructional staff and program supports	8/13/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All programs will start remote for staff and students.</li> <li>• Staff return to the work on site 4 days a week in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8.</li> <li>• Students will return to campus with the Hybrid Phase 4c will start on 9/14/2020 if there continues to be a consistent decrease of positivity within the region.</li> </ul>
SEDOL Sector Programs and DHH HS	Instructional staff and program support staff	Varied based on member district decision making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the plan presented by the member districts including student and staff attendance.</li> </ul>
SEDOL Centers (CLA, GLS, Fairhaven, JPC, Laremont, South)	Administrative assistant/clerical staff	8/3/2020	4 days in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning
Seymour	Instructional and program support staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All programs will start remote for staff and students.</li> <li>• Staff return to the work on site 4 days a week in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8.</li> <li>• Students will return to campus with the Hybrid Phase 4b will start on 10/19/2020 if there</li> </ul>

			continues to be a consistent decrease of positivity within the region.
South School (ED Alt)	Instructional and program support staff	8/21/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All students and staff start remote.</li> <li>● Staff return to the work on site 4 days a week in person (M, T, R, F). Wednesday SEDOL buildings are closed to all staff for cleaning. This is effective until there is a consistent decrease of positivity within our region and no earlier than 9/8. This may be different from District 75.</li> <li>● District 75 and SEDOL will determine metrics for returning to hybrid and onsite learning.</li> </ul>

This decision was very difficult to come to as I understand the implications for our students not being able to access any in-person learning, but my hope is that as a community we can come together and work to decrease the positive percentages to be able to have students in school as soon as safely possible. There are a few of our SEDOL sector classrooms that continue to plan for in person hybrid learning this fall and I will keep you updated regarding their plans also. Our goal is to notify parents, districts and staff next week regarding student placements for the fall.

Please contact your building administrator or myself if you have any questions.

In partnership,  
Val Donnan