

Return to School Fall 2021

Frequently Asked Questions



ARTHUR R. CULVER, SUPERINTENDENT

Vision & Mission

VISION

Students in East St. Louis School District 189 are supported physically, socially, and emotionally in a safe and nurturing environment to achieve academic success that prepares them for college, the workforce, and citizenship in the 21st century.

MISSION

To cultivate the potential in every student to thrive as a global citizen by inspiring a love of learning and civic engagement, by challenging and supporting every student to achieve academic excellence, and by embracing the full richness of our community.

DISTRICT GOALS

The work in East St. Louis School District 189 is guided by five goals:

GOAL 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Establish and maintain continuous academic growth for all students using diverse, rigorous, and relevant curricula and assessments.

GOAL 2: FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Maintain stable funding and sound fiscal stewardship to provide appropriate instructional resources and support services, and to operate facilities at maximum efficiency.

GOAL 3: SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Foster a positive culture and climate that supports the health and social-emotional well-being of every student.

GOAL 4: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Engage families, community members and all stakeholders in a collaborative process to support academic excellence.

GOAL 5: COMMITTED, HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STAFF

Recruit, hire, retain, and develop highly effective personnel to achieve academic excellence and support student social-emotional health.

Back to School Task Force
TEAM MEMBERS
Arthur R. Culver, Superintendent

TEAM PURPOSE

The objective of the School Year 2020-2021 Back to School Task Force is to ensure that staff and students return to school and are able to operate in a way that provides a safe and healthy environment, allowing them to execute all district goals and visions for students.

Kimberly Allen
Assistant Principal East St. Louis Senior High

Esther Beard
Parent Representative COFI

Kay Brown
District 189 Math Content Specialist

Tifani Brown
Principal Officer Elementary School

Jennifer Brumback
Chief Academic Officer

Lori Chalmers
Director of Recruitment and Retention

Mark Chambers
TSL Recruiter

Carlynda Coleman
Principal Dunbar Elementary School

Olivia Coleman
**1220 Teachers' Union Vice President,
SS Department Head East St. Louis Senior High**

Norquise Cooper
Supervisor of Transportation Services

Mamie Cozy
Parent Representative Parents United for Change

Charlotte Edwards
School Turnaround Specialist
Delores Enlow
Paraprofessional Mason-Clark Middle School

Vickie Fair
Registrar East St. Louis Senior High School

Ramonda Fleming
Assistant Director of Special Education

Shontay Ford
Community Representative Rise 189

Marie Franklin
**Community Representative United Congregations
of Metro East/Rise 189**

Tina Frye
Chief Human Resource Officer

Keisa Garrett
Chief of Schools

Dr. Tiffany Gholson
Director of Parent and Student Services

Dr. Brittany Green
Principal of Bush Elementary School

Kim Greenwood
District 189 Social Studies Content Specialists

LaToya Greenwood
Director of Human Resources

Liz Guzewelle
Social Emotional Learning Specialists

Joseph Haskell
Director of Risk Management and Fixed Assets

Edwina Holton
1220 Teacher Dunbar Elementary School

Melanie Hood
Principal Vivian Adams Early Childhood Center

Kim Hopkins
Director of Special Education

Michael Hubbard
Supervisor of Safety and Security

Dr. Danielle Huff
Assistant Principal East St. Louis Senior High

Denisa Huff
Human Resource Manager

Delfaye Jason
Director of Finance

Antionette Johnson
Director of Curriculum

Kim Jones-Riley
Principal Mason-Clark Middle School

Evan Krauss
**Director, East Side Aligned-United Way of Greater
St. Louis**

Stacey Lampkin
Director of College Access and Persistence

Dekiethrich Lockett
Director of Career and Technical Education

Valencia Martin
Director of Teacher School Leader Program

Anson Mitchell
Assistant Principal East St. Louis Senior High

Alonzo Nelson
Director of Maintenance and Operations

Quanshanda Nicholson
Principal Avant Elementary

Barbara Outten
**District Crisis/Threat Assessment Team Teacher
Avant Elementary School**

Gwen Randolph
District 189 Science Content Specialist

Dr. Sherry Reynolds-Whitaker
Chief School Business Officer

Dwjuan Robinson
Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor

David Shanks
Principal Lincoln Middle School

Esther Spells
**District 189 English Language Arts Content
Specialists**

Darnell Spencer
**Principal Wyvetter Young Alternative Learning
Center**

Sydney Stigge-Kaufman
Director Strategic Partnerships

Tiffany Taylor
Grants and Strategic Partnerships Specialist

Dawne Turner
Social Emotional Learning Specialist

Tracee Wells
TSL Mentor Resident Coach

Maria White-Burton
Principal Katie Wright Elementary School

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) For Returning to School 2020-2021

Before reading the FAQ, parents are asked to go to the following link to update your contact information as well as answer information needed to assist your student(s):

<https://skyweb.estl189.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsEPlus/seplog01.w>

1. What will my child’s academic day look like this year?

Three return-to-school models have been fully developed, with the understanding that our school district will probably use all options over the course of the 2020-2021 school year. Based on late July COVID-19 data and trends in our serving area, the school district will begin the year with **Phase 1 - Remote Learning on August 17, 2020 through at least the first quarter.**

This decision is based on the aforementioned data, feedback from parents, community members, principals, directors, teachers, support staff, and the Illinois Department of Public Health. We know that students learn best in-person with direct instruction from our teachers and support from all our staff. We also know they benefit from socialization with their peers. However, the health and safety of our students, staff and community must be at the forefront of the decision in how we resume student learning.

<p>PHASE 1: REMOTE LEARNING</p>	<p>Students will participate in remote learning from home for a minimum of 5 hours daily while staff continue to work from schools. Teachers will have consistent contact with students via new remote learning criteria. Students and a parent/guardian will sign the district’s <i>Compact of Remote Learning Expectations</i>. Students will be held accountable for their work and regular feedback will be provided.</p> <p>K-12 students will follow a consistent schedule/routine each week that includes regular live contact with teachers. Teachers will provide instructional resources and materials through the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PreK: Daily virtual conferences between families, students, and school. Paper packets and snacks to be picked up weekly. ✓ Grades K-12: Clever & Google Classroom; possible pickup of additional instructional materials <p>Please have your child login at the assigned class times, per their schedule. Students will login to their Clever account using their login and password. Your child’s school will share the Clever login and password again at the start of the school year:</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/yys6vd6</p>
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<p>PHASE 2: HYBRID</p>	<p>Every week, students will attend school in-person for 2 days and work on assignments and activities given by their teacher(s) from home for 3 days. Students should be expected to engage in a minimum of 5-hours in educational activities even during their days at home.</p> <p>In-person attendance for students will consistently either be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GROUP A: Monday & Tuesday (Group B in Remote Learning) ✓ GROUP B: Thursday & Friday (Group A in Remote Learning) <p>Wednesdays will be remote learning for students. Teachers will be planning, collaborating with their teams and/or providing virtual office hours for students and families on Wednesdays.</p> <p>Students will be divided into two groups. Schools will work to ensure that students in a family will attend school on the same schedule.</p>
<p>PHASE 3: TRADITIONAL SCHOOL DAY</p>	<p>Students and staff back to school in-person for full day instruction and activities.</p>

During full Remote Learning and remote learning days under the hybrid model, students should login at the assigned class times, per their schedule. Students will login to their Clever account using their login and password. Your child’s school will share the Clever login and password again at the start of the school year. <https://tinyurl.com/yysr6vd6>

2. What will you do for families with underlying health conditions?

School District 189 is providing an alternative learning opportunity for those who have health concerns. Families who have children and/or individuals with underlying health conditions living in the home may opt for full remote learning. Families must have medical verification of this need updated in your enrollment packet. A *Compact of Remote Learning Expectations* must be completed as well. Requests must be made to the principal of your child’s school by October 1, 2020.

3. How will my child receive instructional materials when not in school?

Schools will schedule periodic days where families may pick up educational materials. All returning students who received a Chromebook in spring or summer 2020 may continue to use it at home for educational purposes. All K-12 students enrolled in School District 189 are expected to use their assigned Chromebook or other technology provided at home to access Clever and the Google platform.

Any **student in need of a Chromebook or a hotspot** for internet connection should reach out to their school principal to make arrangements for pickup. The principal contact list can be found on our district website, here: <https://www.est189.com/domain/68>

4. How will I know when and how school will resume?

School District 189 will begin with Remote Learning on Monday, August 17, 2020 and will continue at least through Friday, October 16, 2020 (the end of the first quarter). Families will receive updates

before the end of the first quarter about how instruction will continue and which model will be used in the second quarter.

5. What if my child needs additional support?

School District 189 will continue to provide key supports to students who receive Special Education services or qualify as English Language Learners. More communication will be sent to these families periodically during the school year.

We will continue to provide social emotional supports to all students. Our text hotline remains available 24 hours a day at 618-249-4443.

6. What are you doing to ensure the safety of students when in school?

School District 189 has developed a proactive plan based on guidance from expert agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Illinois Department of Public Health, which places student and staff safety at the forefront of returning to school.

On the first day of in-person school and throughout those first few weeks, new safety procedures will be taught and practiced in all of our classrooms. Parental support and reinforcement of these new measures will be critical in providing the safest possible environment for our students and staff.

Additional safety measures include:

- ✓ Schools will undergo a deep cleaning daily.
- ✓ Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings during the school day and are welcome to bring their own. However, the district has purchased cloth face coverings for all students and staff that will be available on the first day of in-person school.
- ✓ All students and staff will receive a temperature screening prior to being admitted beyond the school entrance. Those with a temperature will be quarantined or sent home.
- ✓ To the extent possible, students will be spaced throughout the classroom and buildings to promote social distancing.
- ✓ We will limit the use of community supplies that are difficult to disinfect (pencils, calculators, lab equipment, machinery, P.E. equipment, etc.) in the classroom and at recess.
- ✓ Meals will be served in classrooms to limit large group gatherings and exposure to multiple students.

We ask that parents assist us in providing a safe and healthy environment. Keep your child(ren) at home if they have a fever, other contagious symptoms or have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

7. What if I need to visit the school campus to update information or enroll a new student?

We encourage families to call or email in advance to schedule an appointment. School contact information can be found at: <https://www.est189.com/domain/68>. If the school district is under full closure, then all schools will also be closed to visitors, volunteers and families. Parents and volunteers are an integral and valued part of our school communities. While we are making changes to ensure the safety of all, we hope to resume our traditional methods for engaging parents and volunteers as soon as safely possible.

- **APPOINTMENTS AND DROP IN VISITS:** Visitor entry into schools will be limited during this time and may be more stringent at some locations. All visitors should schedule an appointment to visit district offices by phone prior to their visit. All meetings with teachers, principals, etc. should be done virtually as possible. In-person drop-in meetings are not permitted. All visitors will be required to follow the same guidelines as students and staff.
- **FACE COVERINGS:** Per ISBE guidance: “All individuals in school buildings, including all public and nonpublic schools that serve students in prekindergarten through grade 12, must wear face coverings at all times unless they are younger than 2 years of age; have trouble breathing; or are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance. Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained.”
- **FEVERS:** CDC and IDPH guidelines for visitors or students who were suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, state that 72 hours must elapse from resolution of fever without fever-reducing medication and 10 days must pass after symptoms first appeared before returning to one of our schools. It is recommended that medically fragile and immunocompromised individuals consult their medical provider prior to entering a school campus or building.
- **UPDATES:** It is important to note that these requirements are subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions. Parents and school visitors should remain alert for any updates, particularly through campus signs, robocalls, website information and official School District 189 Facebook and Twitter postings.

8. What about sports or extracurricular activities? (updated August 4)

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) governs all high school Illinois athletics. As of July 14, 2020, IHSA announced that it will defer to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Governor’s Office on all of its Return To Play Guidelines moving forward. You can see IHSA COVID-19 updates here: <https://www.ihsa.org/default.asp>.

The IHSA Board of Directors approved a modified schedule for the 2020-21 school year that will allow all IHSA sports to be played over four seasons in the fall, winter, spring & summer. See full release and schedule by sports:

<https://www.ihsa.org/News-Media/Announcements/ihsa-board-announces-modified-schedule-for-2020-21-school-year>

The Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) continues to monitor the recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it relates to coronavirus (COVID-19) and will make decisions accordingly.

During their meeting on July 23, the IESA Board made the decision to cancel the fall activities of golf, softball, baseball, and cross-country. That decision was based on the information the Association had at the time of the meeting. The All Sports Guidance document that was recently released from the Governor's Office placed the sports of golf, softball, baseball, and cross-country in the "lower risk" category. Sports in that category can hold practices and interscholastic games. As a result of these four sports being recategorized to lower risk and with interscholastic competitions being allowed, the IESA Board for Directors has approved a plan for the return of regular season

contests in these activities and a limited state series. Details can be found here: <https://www.iesa.org/>

School District 189 plans to convene many extracurricular activities via remote learning when in-person gathering is not feasible. More communication on this topic will be available soon on our school district website: www.estl189.com

9. How will I receive updates and information?

School District 189 provides a variety of communication methods, including:

- ✓ Website updates: www.estl189.com
- ✓ Facebook and Twitter: @estl189
- ✓ Periodic updates made in The East St. Louis Monitor
- ✓ Call the school district office at 618.646.3000
- ✓ Email questions@estl189.com
- ✓ Robocall messages to families and staff

Please ensure that all students have updated contact information on file with your school office. We need their family's current phone number, address and email address to ensure proper communication throughout the year.

August 4, 2020

10. What supplies will students need for Remote Learning from home?

During Remote Learning, students should have paper or notebooks and pencils available to them at home. Students in grades 6-12 should also have a highlighter. If families need support with these resources, please contact your school office. Chromebooks will be provided to all students in grades K-12. Internet access is also necessary. Please contact your school principal for any technology needs or supports.

11. Will students be required to have school uniforms this year?

While in Remote Learning, students are not required to be in school uniform. When students return in person to school, the dress code policy will be in effect that includes school uniforms. Dress code information will soon be posted on the district website.

12. What about current seniors who didn't take the SAT as a junior?

Each eligible grade 12 student may participate in only one administration of the three available ISBE-Provided SAT with Essay options in the 2020-21 school year. More details can be found here: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-2020-ISBE-Provided-SAT-Essay.pdf>

This communication will be updated frequently based on new Q&A. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your child's school. You can also contact district representatives at questions@estl189.com