

Dear Hawthorn Community,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. Yesterday, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released guidance for schools on the 2020-21 school year. The requirements and recommendations are designed to keep students and staff healthy and safe upon our return to school.

ISBE's 60-page document has been much anticipated, and will go a long way toward answering critical questions all of us share about the 2020-21 school year regarding in-person learning, scheduling, transportation, wearing masks, social distancing, and other measures intended to keep everyone safe and healthy while also re-engaging students in the learning process.

We do not yet have detailed answers to these and other questions, as ISBE's guidance document was released to school districts at the same time it was released to the public. Therefore, we kindly ask for your patience as Hawthorn 73 staff review all of ISBE's requirements and recommendations, and determine the best way to implement them.

We are keenly aware of the urgent need to communicate to families about what to expect next year, and anticipate releasing our own detailed transition plan the week of July 20th; this will outline our in-person return to learning plan. As you are aware, our district has already started discussing options and working on transition procedures for both students and staff.

If you have not done so already, please participate in this brief [survey](#) by Friday, June 26th. While we recognize that your family's plan or perspective may change as we move closer to the start of our school year, feedback that you are able to share at this time will still prove helpful in our planning process.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we prepare for the 2020-21 school year. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy summer!

Sincerely,

Pete Hannigan
Superintendent