

November 16, 2020

Dear District 73 Parents:

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to plan for an in-person learning option during the COVID-19 pandemic. In making decisions about what this will look like, our priority continues to be the health and safety of students, staff, and our Hawthorn community. We have accessed guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Lake County Health Department (LCHD).

During the Board of Education meeting on November 12th, the hybrid model was approved for students that participate in third through eighth grade self-contained special education and students in kindergarten through eighth grade general education. Hybrid learning provides students with both in-person and remote instruction. Specific details related to our district's hybrid learning model for students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade general education and third through eighth grade self-contained special education is available in [English](#) and [Español](#).

At this time, there is not a definitive timeline for a return to in-person instruction. However, instructional plans approved at the Board of Education meeting on November 12 allow district and building leaders to work towards implementing an optional hybrid model for students. An important step in our planning is seeking input from all families through a registration process. **Each district family with a child in third through eighth grade self-contained special education or kindergarten through eighth grade general education must register by Monday, November 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to either continue participation in full remote learning or transition to our hybrid learning model.**

Please note that the hybrid plan for students enrolled in early childhood, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten through second grade self-contained special education was approved during the October 15 Board of Education meeting. Families of students that participate in these programs have already selected the option best for their family, and are not required to reselect. You may visit our website at www.hawthorn73.org to view the October 15 and November 12 Board of Education meetings.

In order to register your child, please log into the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and select the school forms link on the left. Under the school forms link you will see a Learning Option 2020 Form.

Please keep in mind the following as you complete this form:

- Take time to fully understand your family's options. (Please see our FAQ in [English](#) or [Español](#). You may also visit our website at www.hawthorn73.org to view a video presentation.
- Due to scheduling constraints, the remote learning option remains in effect until the end of the school year, however a selection of hybrid can be changed to the remote option at any time.
- There is not a definitive date for implementation of the hybrid model at this time. Currently, the Health Department [School Decision Dashboard](#) recommends a Virtual Learning Model (remote learning). When the health department declares that transmission has returned to a moderate rate, Hawthorn 73 would notify parents at a minimum of two weeks prior to students returning to the building.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we navigate these unprecedented times. If you have any questions regarding your options, please do not hesitate to contact your child's building administrator.

Sincerely,

Pete Hannigan, Ed.D.
Superintendent