

ILLINOIS CENTER FOR AUTISM BLENDED LEARNING PLAN FOR COVID-19

Purpose

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Center for Autism is now providing blended learning opportunities for all students. Face to face learning and remote learning will both be available and ICA may switch between the types of learning based upon guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The implementation of this initiative will be used in conjunction with the students' Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) and is expected to build the capacity of all stakeholders to successfully implement the program. The four priorities guiding this plan are:

- The safety, health and welfare of our students and staff members
- Delivering services to our students reasonably and in the best way we know how,
- Documentation of efforts that is consistent, detailed and demonstrates good faith effort to provide services
- Maximum level of compliance with the law during this time.

Timing

This plan will go into effect at the start of the 2020-2021 school year and will remain in effect until the region transitions to Phase 5 in governor's Restore Illinois Plan.

ICA Staff Availability

Illinois Center for Autism educators are expected to perform all required job duties and report daily to their assigned campuses. Inability to be available as listed will require notification of the Educational Services Director/Principal and the Assistant Educational Services Director/Assistant Principal. Blended learning days will be simultaneous learning experiences during regular school hours via video feed in Google Meets with one on one support available throughout the learning day from a combination of the teachers, therapists and paraprofessionals.

Attendance

Student attendance will be taken daily and students utilizing remote learning under this blended learning plan must report online to be counted as present. Any period of 5 days of nonattendance will be brought to the attention of the Educational Services Director/Principal and the Assistant Educational Services Director/Assistant Principal and the serving school district will be notified in accordance with Section 14-7, 02 of the Illinois School Code.

Instruction

Blended learning will be real time and involve technology. The Illinois Center for Autism will facilitate ensuring each student has the technology needed to access remote learning under the blended learning plan. It is the responsibility of the ICA licensed special education teachers and therapists to contact families to determine if a different format will be needed and document what blended learning days will look like for students needing modifications. A copy of these plans must be submitted to the Educational Services Director/Principal and the Assistant Educational Services Director/Assistant Principal.

Instructional Time Expectations

Students are expected to be engaged in a full, 5-hour instructional day when utilizing remote learning under this blended learning plan. These 5 hours will be a combination of direct instruction, video instruction, phone calls and assigned school work.

Responsibilities

Sharing responsibilities will create stability and relieve anxiety as everyone knows what their role is in the larger context.

This is not an inclusive list of all recommended responsibilities.

Leadership Responsibilities	Develop a blended learning plan. Communicate regularly with stakeholders. Support teachers in planning and implementing blended learning. Identify needed resources (academic, health, social, emotional). Ensure families have the needed technology to access the blended learning plan.
Educator Responsibilities	Prepare blended learning lesson plans. Deliver blended learning per daily lesson plans. Communicate regularly with students/families. Provide a range of meaningful instruction and activities that meet the needs of learners as individuals.
Student Responsibilities	Report online daily. Complete work as assigned. Ask for help when needed. Be respectful and courteous to everyone involved in the remote learning experience.
Parent/Family/Caregiver Responsibilities	Create a learning place for the student. Encourage the student to get enough sleep. Establish and follow daily routines Help the student log in and talk to the student every day about their school work. Review student school work.

Common Platform

The Illinois Center for Autism utilizes Google Classroom and Google Meets to deliver blended learning.

Documentation of Progress

Documentation of Progress will be done via dialogue with students and/or family, evaluation of student work, and direct observation of the student utilizing remote learning under the blended learning plan.

It is expected that progress on the IEP will be updated per normal guidelines.

Transition Back to Traditional On-Site Instruction

Currently the Illinois Center for Autism's focus is to provide the best learning opportunities possible for our students in a blended learning format. Once our region enters Phase 5 in the governor's Restore Illinois Plan, a plan to return to full face to face learning will be developed and shared with stakeholders.

Communication and Support

We are proceeding with blended learning in a manner we believe will best support our students, families, communities and staff. However, we know that there will be changes that will need to be made along the way as we work through implementation of this plan. Frequent communication in a timely manner is critical as we move forward. If you need support from the Educational Services Director/Principal or the Assistant Educational Services Director/Assistant Principal, their contact information is located below.

Sandra Rodenberg – Educational Services Director/Principal

sandra@illinoiscenterforautism.org Cell: 618-973-2485 Desk 618-398-7500 ext. 303 (8 am-4 pm)

Kate Wondolowski – Assistant Educational Services Director/Assistant Principal

katew@illinoiscenterforautism.org Cell: 618-971-3119 Desk 618-398-7500 ext. 237 (8 am-4 pm)

Blended Learning Plan Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A Students	<p>Face to Face</p> <p>8:30 - 2:30 - Fairview Campus 9:00 – 3:00 – Belleville Campus</p>	<p>Remote Learning Day</p>	<p>Face to Face</p> <p>8:30 - 2 :30 - Fairview Campus 9:00 – 3:00 –Belleville Campus</p>	<p>Remote Learning Day</p>	<p>Remote Learning Day</p>
Group B Students	<p>Remote Learning Day</p>	<p>Face to Face</p> <p>8:30 - 2:30 - Fairview Campus 9:00 – 3:00 – Belleville Campus</p>	<p>Remote Learning Day</p>	<p>Face to Face</p> <p>8:30 - 2:30 - Fairview Campus 9:00 – 3:00 –Belleville Campus</p>	<p>Remote Learning Day</p>

Students will be assigned to a group after all parents/guardians have expressed whether or not they want face to face learning. ICA staff will be contacting all families to record whether or not they want face to face learning under the Blended Learning Plan. Student groupings will be finalized by August 3, 2020.