

Welcome to J. Sterling Morton High School District 201

Who are We?

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 is a school district headquartered in Cicero, Illinois, United States. The district serves the city of Berwyn, the town of Cicero, and the villages of Lyons and Stickney. A small section of McCook also lies in the district boundaries.

Executive Summary

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 has developed a Return to School plan for the 2020 - 2021 school year. In doing so, the District will be able to follow guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The plan emphasizes in-person instruction with the ability to modify to varying degrees of remote learning as conditions require.

The COVID- 19 pandemic resulted in the immediate early closure of schools across the United States including all of Illinois' Schools. As a result of the closures, schools in Illinois developed remote learning opportunities for students and families. Many of these remote learning opportunities relied on the use of technology for remote video learning and for communication between student and teacher. While J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 deployment of devices and establishment of student remote learning was swift and adequate, there is no substitute for in-person student learning, as it cannot be duplicated with remote meetings or video conferencing. The value of in person student and teacher interaction is key to student success and learning. The State of Illinois recognizes this fact and allows for students to return to in-person learning during phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan adopted by Governor J.B. Pritzker. This plan further states that Illinois schools must follow approved safety guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for re-opening.

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 has consulted with numerous stakeholders to review options and develop a re-opening plan compliant with the phase 4 guidelines. This plan was developed with collaboration from administrative staff, teachers, various union leadership, parents and families, the Intermediate Service Center, elementary partner school districts, other area school districts, the Cook County Health Department, and other community stakeholders.

