



GIDDINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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GISD Remote Learning Change

It is hard to believe that it is already December, and the first semester will end in a week. We began this unique school year with some of our students engaged in Remote Instruction, and during this semester, students have transitioned back to campus for Face-to-Face Instruction while some have remained remote. Currently, approximately 90% of our students are back on campus and engaging in instruction with their teachers in the classrooms.

We continue to carefully implement our health and safety protocol, and we are taking action quickly when students and staff need to be quarantined because of COVID. Each week, the positivity rates within the district are reported to all the necessary reporting entities. You can view positivity rates around the state and for GISD by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/schools/texas-education-agency/>.

The first semester will end on December 18, and if your student is a Remote Instruction learner, it is now time to prepare for the second semester.

After reviewing the data from our first semester of school, a large majority of our remote learners are not being successful. This data supports the overwhelming consensus that the most successful environment to educate students is face-to-face.

Therefore, Giddings ISD will be ending remote learning across all campuses effective at the end of the first semester. All students will be required to return for face-to-face instruction beginning January 5, 2021. Giddings ISD will continue to provide temporary remote instruction to students who:

- Have tested positive for Covid-19
- Were required to quarantine due to contact tracing/close contact
- Special Education students who have an IEP that calls for remote instruction & 504 students whose accommodations call for remote instruction
- Received a medical certification from their doctor

This document will serve as notice to parents/guardians of remote students. Parents may appeal this decision in one of two ways:

- **Submitting a medical exemption**, which you can find attached to this communication, or you can download it here https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/medical_certification_for_covid-19_high_risk_exemption.docx. This exemption requires health care provider certification that your child or an individual in his/her household has a high-risk

medical condition as defined by the Centers for Disease Control. You can submit this appeal via email to your student's campus principal.

- **Requesting a transition meeting.** If you request a transition meeting (which can be held virtually), GISD will contact you to schedule a transition meeting, including one or more of your student's teachers. The meeting will occur no sooner than 3 days after you request it, and your child may continue to learn remotely until the meeting has been held.

While we strongly believe on-campus instruction at Giddings ISD is the best option for all children, here are some other options you could consider if you do not believe it is in your child's best interest to return to their campus.


1. Request transfer status to a district that offers remote learning
2. Out-of-District students can enroll at their home campus.
3. Enroll in a private school
4. Homeschool
5. Enroll with an online school
 - a. K-12 online (<https://www.k12.com/>)
 - b. TTU K-12 (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/fulltime/>)

As a reminder, TEC, §25.092, requires students to attend at least 90% of the course to obtain credit. This applies to individual course subjects at the secondary level and to all grade levels at the elementary level.

1. Students who cannot meet this requirement while enrolled in school will/may be required to repeat the grade and/or subject the following year.
2. Truancy laws still apply to students enrolled in school but who are not attending (either remotely or in person).
3. Students who ultimately fail to earn a passing grade for a course (or an entire grade level) will/may be required to repeat the course (or grade level).

If you have any questions about the change in remote learning for next semester or your options, please contact your campus principal.

Thank You,



Roger Dees
Superintendent



Medical Certification for COVID-19 High Risk Exemption

Student name: _____

Campus: _____

Return to in- person instruction medical certification exemption:

Should a student be identified to return to in-person instruction, but the student or an individual in his/her household has a high-risk medical condition as defined by the Centers for Disease Control, a medical certification form will need to be completed.

This form will need to be presented at the appeal meeting or emailed to the campus administration to claim the high-risk exemption for COVID-19.

Individual at Higher Risk: Individuals at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are those individuals with certain underlying health conditions as designated by the CDC, which provides as follows:

Those individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness, as designated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are those with conditions such as asthma, chronic lung disease, compromised immune systems (including from smoking, cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, or use of corticosteroids or other immune weakening medications), diabetes, serious heart disease (including heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathies, and hypertension), chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, liver disease, or severe obesity.

To be completed by the Health Care Provider

Health Care Provider's Name: _____

Health Care Provider's Address: _____

Type of practice / Medical specialty: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

1. Does the named student have an underlying medical condition deemed to be high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 as determined by the CDC and listed above? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. If yes, please provide the medical diagnosis of the underlying condition (as identified by the CDC) for this student.

Signature of Health Care Provider

Date