



**RETURN TO SCHOOL**

**2021**

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To the Parents and Guardians of Tyler ISD Students,

For the past five months, our administrative leadership team has been redesigning the Tyler ISD **Return to School (R2S)** protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. As you know, many school systems across the country are just now looking at in-person learning while remaining in compliance with Federal requirements. Due to the successful in-person school year we all enjoyed last year, we feel our school district is primed to recapture the momentum and traditions enjoyed by so many Tyler ISD students, parents, guardians, faculty, and staff.

Undoubtedly, the 2020-2021 school year was challenging. We were forced to enact uncomfortable protocols in order to have in-person school for our students while keeping the most vulnerable populations of our community as safe as we possibly could. We learned so much as the year progressed, adapted for safety and instruction, and used information along the way to prepare for this upcoming school year. We completed the 2020-2021 school year approximately 99% in-person, with many of our students and staff healthy throughout the year. Since that time, science and data have allowed for school systems that already went through a rigid in-person year, like Tyler ISD, to redesign the operational logistics to become more student and staff-friendly for this next year. The widespread accessibility of a vaccine for those who choose to receive it, along with 18 months of the virus working its way through society naturally, and understanding the impact of the virus on younger populations, allows for Tyler ISD to operationally return to school for the 2021-2022 year with a sense of familiarity.

It remains the District's belief that face-to-face instruction is the best method for a child's learning and social-emotional growth. Our protocols worked and brought us to this point where we feel comfortable encouraging those who do not want to continue the face-covering practice to have the freedom to do so. As well, those who wish to continue to wear a mask have the freedom to do so. As with every school year, all students and staff are expected to follow our health and safety guidelines. We are moving in a direction we believe is best for all Tyler ISD students and staff. Additionally, we have the experience and expertise to implement tighter health protocols if needed in the future, and we are positioned to do so at a moment's notice.

We look forward to welcoming all of our Tyler ISD students back into the classroom and are excited to get back to our vision of creating Successful Student Outcomes.

Marty Crawford, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



## Instructional Information for Families

Tyler ISD's in-school instructional practices ensure the safety of students and staff to the best of our ability.

**Students will attend classes five days a week, with additional safety measures, in alignment with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.**

- Students will engage in high-quality learning experiences aligned to Tyler ISD curriculum and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills;
- Tyler ISD will utilize the strategies and best practices associated with blended learning to design learning activities for all students;
- Tyler ISD is a 1:1 District, meaning each student is issued a device to use for a school year (see below Technology);
- Resources will be provided for students to access the curriculum, assignments, and instruction;
- A learning management system called Canvas will be utilized as a tool for students to engage in classroom experiences. (These assignments may be asynchronous (at any time) or synchronous (a specific time.) Homework assignments, class assignments, and/or assessments could occur inside of Canvas;
- The Tyler ISD Grading Policies apply to Canvas assignments, as well as non-Canvas assignments.

### Technology

Tyler ISD recognizes the need to ensure all students have reliable access to adequate technology resources on and off-campus in order to fully participate in academic programming.

- Tyler ISD is a one to one (1:1) district, meaning each student K-12 will be issued a device to use for the academic year. (As determined by the campus);
- No deposit is required;
- Free WiFi access will be provided in specific locations of each campus parking lot;
- Parents/guardians shall accept the online Technology Device Agreement;
- Students and families are expected to follow guidelines for care and use in order to ensure these public resources are effectively maintained;
- Relevant notifications, instructions, procedures, policies, and processes are available on the Tyler ISD website.

## Return to School Health and Safety Protocols

Below are the Return to School protocols for Tyler ISD campuses and administration buildings. Since this is an ever-changing situation, the district may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Tyler ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other information deemed relevant to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

## School Preparations

Tyler ISD ensures all staff, resources, and supplies are prepared for school, including but not limited to assigning sufficient staff to carry out protocols, ensuring proper training, and stocking inventory of necessary supplies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations, and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Tyler ISD implements health and safety plans that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory (e.g., cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.);
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Health and Human Services, the Texas Education Agency, and other jurisdictional policies;
- Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings.

## Screening and Isolation

All students and staff will be monitored for infectious illness daily.

- CDC does not currently recommend universal temperature screenings (screening all students grades Pre-K-12) be conducted by schools;
- Parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day;
- Students who are sick should not attend school.

### Screening Protocols [Updated 9/2/21](#)

- Staff should complete a self-screening process prior to entering a Tyler ISD building, and the district may require further screening of students and staff at any time based on current state and federal guidelines and local conditions;
- Per TEA guidelines, a parent or guardian should screen their children for infectious illness each day prior to sending them to school;
- Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are present;
- Campus staff are trained appropriately and use a standardized screening tool for all campus visitor;
- Students, staff, or visitors may not enter a District facility if any of the following apply:
  - Major symptoms of COVID-19 (one symptom)
    - Fever (100.0 or greater) and/or chills;
    - Persistent cough;
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
    - Diarrhea/vomiting;
    - New loss of taste or smell.
  - Minor symptoms of COVID-19 (two or more symptoms)
    - Sore throat;
    - Nausea;
    - New or unexplained congestion or runny nose;
    - Sudden onset of persistent headache.
  - Waiting for results from a COVID-19 test
- Parents and/or guardians must screen their students' health condition daily using the criteria listed above;

- A “yes” response to any of the above criteria requires the individual to remain at home. The parent/guardian should contact the campus nurse for further guidance on the student’s return to school;
  - If an individual has symptoms that could be Covid19 and wants to return to school before the 10 day quarantine period is over they must either (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing them to return based on an alternative diagnosis (diagnosis does not have to be listed on the note) or (b) obtain a PCR Covid-19 test that returns with a negative test result. A Rapid test result will not be accepted for early re-entry. **HOWEVER, A POSITIVE RAPID RESULT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR REPORTING OF A POSITIVE CASE.**
  - An individual diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school when all three of the CDC symptom-based criteria are met:
    - 10 days since the start of symptoms or diagnosis;
    - 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications;
    - Improved symptoms.
- Any individual identified as a close contact to a COVID positive case should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for the next 10 days and seek medical advice and/or COVID testing if symptoms develop.
  - If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify the Tyler ISD Health Services department, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA);
  - Please ensure your child’s medical history is up to date in the Tyler ISD system during online registration or by emailing your child’s campus nurse so that Tyler ISD health professionals can make an informed decision when evaluating illness.

## Personal Protective Equipment

### Face Coverings [Updated 8/25/21](#)

Governor Greg Abbott’s most recent executive order, issued July 29, prohibits any government entity, **including school districts**, from mandating masks. This means students, staff, and visitors can not be required to wear masks in public schools in Texas. Tyler ISD highly recommends students and staff consider wearing a face cover during rising and/or peak infectious seasons as a way to prevent the spread of disease when other mitigations (such as vaccines) are not utilized, especially when indoors, in tight spaces, and/or as part of heterogeneous groups outside of normal cohorts.

Students and staff must provide their own face coverings should they choose to wear them.

## Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

### Custodial Cleaning/PPE/Disinfecting

- C3 Disinfect machine in restrooms;

- Provide multiple hand sanitizer stands to each campus;
- All restrooms cleaned two times per day;
- Student classrooms will be disinfected daily;
  - Custodians will use an Electro-static machine to clean classrooms, locker rooms, gyms, athletic equipment, and restrooms daily;
- Teacher desks, computers, and phones will be wiped and disinfected per request;
- Elementary and middle school auto floor scrubbers will run every night in hallways;
- High school auto scrubbers will run throughout the day and every night in hallways;
- Custodians will wear gloves while handling trash and cleaning.

## School Arrival & Dismissal

Please check with your child's campus for specific arrival and dismissal procedures. Parents picking up students during the day will need to call ahead so that students can be ready upon arrival.

## Transportation

The Tyler ISD Transportation Department offers the following guidance to parents and caregivers regarding school bus transportation for daily bus routes, as well as field trips.

Bus routes will run at regular capacity. Although the district is implementing the safety protocols and disinfecting efforts described below, families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible exposure on buses.

- It is strongly recommended parents help with supervising their child at the bus stop until the bus arrives;
- Use hand sanitizer (provided near the bus stairwell);
- Standard Tyler ISD transportation rules apply.

### Disinfecting Protocol

#### **At end of each school day:**

- School bus drivers, bus assistants, and staff will disinfect each bus daily with electrostatic sprayers focusing particularly on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and stairway handrail;
- When possible, bus windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

## Cafeteria - Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge to all students and meals will be consumed in the cafeteria. If further mitigation is required throughout the school year, then other eating areas will be explored at that time between the campus administration and the Child Nutrition Department.

Even though meals will be free this year, parents/guardians will be requested to fill out an income questionnaire or meal application for the purpose of establishing rollover data for the start of the 2022-2023 school year and to help students qualify for certain programs offered throughout the school year.

The Tyler ISD Food Service Staff will continue to adhere to strict cleaning and sanitizing procedures as required by local food code and monitored by the local Health Department.

## Campus Visitors

All campus visitors are required to check in through the campus front office per standard District protocols. As an extra security precaution, visitors will use the mounted air phones to request access into the building.

## School Events and Activities

Any schoolwide events that are approved to be held on campus must adhere to requirements outlined by Tyler ISD, TEA, and UIL. (Examples: grade level pep rallies, assemblies, performances, etc.).

PTA and Boosters must collaborate with and seek approval from campus/district administration prior to any event that is planned.

## Emergencies and Drills

Tyler ISD will follow the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and its emergency actions of Secure (Lockout), Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter in Place.

Required safety drills will be scheduled per Texas School Safety Center guidelines.

## Social and Emotional Learning

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) can positively impact a student's attitude, behavioral, and academic outcomes. Tyler ISD is committed to SEL and the well-being of all students. With SEL, children and adults both acquire and apply the knowledge and skills that are necessary in managing emotions, achieving goals, showing empathy for others, maintaining positive relationships, and making responsible decisions.

### Student

- Students are encouraged to contact their school counselor in person, by phone, or by self-referral through completion of the counseling request form on the campus website/Canvas;
- All students will participate in social and emotional learning activities.

### Parent

- Parents are encouraged to talk with their child about their social and emotional well-being;
- Assist in supporting your child's social and emotional needs by contacting the counselor by phone, email, Canvas, or by completing a counseling request form on the campus website/Canvas;
- Keep consistent schedules and routines at home.

### Counselor



- Deliver social and emotional learning lessons;
- Provide counseling for students;
- Provide trauma-informed/grief support;
- Provide information on community resources for mental health and social and emotional well-being;
- Support the development of coping and self-regulation skills, such as managing emotions, impulse control, and perseverance;
- Check in with students in need of assistance, as well as new students transitioning to their new campus.

**Administrator/Teacher/Staff**

- Educators will consistently incorporate opportunities for social and emotional learning practice and reflection;
- Provide multi-tiered systems of support to students to address behavioral and social and emotional needs;
- Refer students in need of assistance to counselors.