



**Rains ISD Return to School Guidance  
2021-2022**

## Introduction

This guide has been designed to provide information to parents, students, and staff. Leaders across the country have faced a trying situation trying to structure a return plan that will maximize learning for students in a safe environment. Regular updates will be made to this document as they become available from the CDC, as well as applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

Rains ISD will review this plan every six months at school board meetings. Prior to those board meetings, stakeholders will be given the opportunity to offer input concerning the plan. Stakeholders invited to give input concerning all aspects of this plan as well as plans for uses of ESSER funds include, but are not limited to, staff, students, parents, community members, and board members.

**COVID-19 Response Team** – Rains ISD has developed a COVID-19 Response Team to respond to concerns and communicate district decisions. Members of the team and email addresses are noted below:

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## Prevention and Mitigation

### Health and Safety Guidance

- **Social and Emotional Well-Being** – Students’ social and emotional well-being are a top priority for Rains ISD. Together, schools and families can support students throughout the year. Counselors and staff will:
  - Work to keep routines predictable
  - Share age-appropriate facts about communicable diseases, including COVID-19
  - Make time to listen to students and giving them opportunities to share feelings
  - Reach out to support students in their learning setting
  - Provide a social worker for extra counseling and support
  - Enter into an MOU with Andrews Center to provide support to students, staff, and families
  
- **Masks** – According to Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order GA-36, masks are to be optional in all school facilities.
  
- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

- o Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at various locations throughout the campuses.
  - o Teachers will provide hand sanitizer in the classrooms and will periodically remind students during the instructional day.
  - o Staff and students are expected to frequently wash or sanitize their hands.
- **Disinfecting Expectations**
    - o Staff will have access to disinfectant spray to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects during breaks in instruction.
    - o Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily.
    - o Cleaning cloths will be changed for each classroom and common area to maximize room-to-room cleanliness.
- **Social Distancing**
    - o Staff and students will work to maintain social distancing in indoor and outdoor settings, to the extent possible.
    - o Classrooms will be arranged to allow for as much space as possible between seating areas.
- **Staff and Student Training**
    - o Staff will be trained by the Director of Health Services and campus administrators to ensure understanding and preparedness to align with this manual.
    - o Students will receive instruction on appropriate hygiene practices.
    - o All employees and students must understand the safety requirements, protocols, and expectations to ensure safety and the prevention and spread of communicable diseases.
- **Improving Ventilation**
    - o Rains ISD will be replacing the HVAC system in the Junior High to improve ventilation.

## Campuses and Classrooms

- **Learning Environments**
    - o When possible, students will be grouped into cohorts.
    - o The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.
- **Visitors, Drop-off, and Pick-Up**
    - o Rains ISD will restrict visitors to the school in an effort to assist in decreasing risks of exposure, as well as to increase safety on campuses.
    - o All visits/meetings between staff and parents/visitors should be scheduled via an appointment.
    - o The number of visitors in the school will be limited to ensure that students are safe; therefore, alternative meeting options may be scheduled, including virtual meetings.
    - o Each school will have procedures in place for daily student drop-off and pick-up routines that are specific to that campus.
    - o Parents/guardians will not be able to leave their cars or enter the buildings during drop-off and pick-up.
    - o Parents who wish to pick up their child prior to the end of the school day will need to call ahead, so students can be accompanied to parent vehicles upon arrival for sign-out.

- **Restrooms and Water Fountains**
  - Students' physical needs are extremely important. Social distancing and hand washing will remain priorities during restroom breaks.
  - Students will be allowed to carry water bottles, which may be refilled at water-filling stations located next to water fountains.
  
- **Additional Instructors in Classrooms**
  - In certain instances, additional staff members may be assigned to classrooms to instruct specific students.
  - These individuals will sanitize prior to entering and exiting the classroom.
  
- **Screening Protocols**
  - Staff will be required to self-screen for symptoms of communicable diseases such as COVID-19 prior to reporting to work each day.
  - Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they have any communicable disease or COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.
  - Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
  - Parents/guardians are expected to screen their children each day prior to sending their student to school.
  - Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has any communicable disease or COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
  - Teachers will monitor students and send them to the nurse if symptoms are present throughout the day.
  - Before visitors are allowed on campuses, they will be screened in the campus office to determine if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they will not be allowed on campus.

## Response

- Students or staff who present with COVID-19 symptoms will be evaluated by the school nurse/nurse aide.
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present: Staff members will be sent home, and students will be isolated and asked to put on face covering until the parent/guardian arrives to take them home.
- Parents will be asked to stay in their vehicle and call the campus office upon arrival to notify the nurse/nurse aide. Students will be escorted to the parent's vehicle upon parent/guardian arrival. High school students who drive must have parent permission to drive home before leaving campus.

Nurse aides/nurse are staffed at each campus, and Rains ISD also employs a Director of Health Services, Trinity Edwards, RN. These individuals have been trained to support and assist with health and safety matters.

- **Per TEA/CDC Guidance on Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19** – Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b)

experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
    - at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
    - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**
    - at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
  - If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- Students or staff who come into close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes while not wearing a face covering) or direct contact (being directly exposed to infectious secretions-e.g., being coughed on); with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 will be asked to follow **the CDC guidance issued as of December 2, 2020. The CDC amended their guidance to allow two shorter options for the stay at-home period. Based on current CDC guidance, the stay-at-home period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms:**
    - **On Day 10 after close contact exposure without testing,**
    - **On Day 7 after close contact exposure and after receiving a negative test result.**
  - District communication will be provided to the staff and students who come into contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19.
  - Rains ISD will sanitize all areas that had exposure from someone who tested positive as soon as possible.
  - Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities. If an individual is determined to have had close contact, he/she or the parent/guardian will be individually contacted.

## Instructional Models

Rains ISD will offer traditional in-person learning for instructional delivery for our students:

Traditional In-Person Learning: (face-to-face, on campus) Students attend school daily, as with a regular school year, and follow safety, sanitation, and social distancing expectations.

The campuses MUST provide instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the required grade level/subject/course. Monitoring student learning and progress remains integral to the success of the students. This includes attendance, grades, formative/summative assessments, and other monitoring systems that help teachers know how students are making progress.

The following pages of this document address the specifics of school procedures for the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Attendance**
  - District funding and resources are linked to attendance.
  - Attendance will be taken each day for face-to-face learning.
  - Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade.
  
- **Grading**
  - State law requires each district to adopt its own grading policies. This policy must require a classroom teacher to assign a grade that reflects the student's relative mastery of an assignment.
  - Rains ISD grading policies are published annually in the campus Student Handbook.
  - Progress reports and report cards, along with parent conferences, will be used to communicate each student's progress and performance.
  
- **State and Local Testing** – All students are expected to follow state and local testing requirements.

### **Roles, Responsibilities, and Resources**

Students:

- Come to school with supplies, completed assignments, and ready to learn.
- Complete class/course by district/teacher deadlines.
- Be on time and ready to learn when entering the classroom.
- Attend class daily.
- Collaborate with teachers and peers during class discussions.
- Ask for clarification if you do not understand how to use learning tools such as Google Classroom.
- Practice digital citizenship.
- Seek guidance from a trusted school employee or adult when feeling anxious or struggling with feelings of depression, anger, etc.

Parents:

- Daily prepare your child for learning by helping your child organize materials/backpack.
- Access teacher expectations/syllabus for students as well as Google classroom information.
- Designate a routine and specific place in the home for academics.
- Obtain Skyward access.
- Obtain Google Classroom access.
- Discuss with your child what was learned at school each day.

- Partner with your child’s teacher to collaborate in order to produce the best educational experience for your child.
- Create and maintain open communication with your child’s teacher via Remind, email, phone calls, and/or face-to-face conferences.
- Teach your child responsibility to take ownership of his/her own learning.
- Be a good listener for your child, and learn what to listen for if and when your child cries out for help.
- Reach out to the school counselor if you need/want to visit about any concerns you have about your child.

Teachers:

- Plan with grade-level team/department team and principals concerning instructional goals and strategies for all students.
- Follow the curriculum scope and sequence.
- Upload instructional materials and resources into Google Classroom.
- Instruct students on Google Classroom accessibility and maneuvering as they utilize learning materials for assignments.
- Assess students’ assignments in a timely manner to give feedback and address next steps if tutorials or interventions are necessary.
- Post grades in a timely manner; at least weekly.
- Classroom teachers provide instruction and interventions as data determines.
- Intervention teachers provide intervention aligned to classroom needs, campus and district schedules.
- Teachers must follow student IEP/504 accommodations.
- Provide services for all special programs.
- Monitor student progress continuously (with documentation)
- Provide a mental, social, and emotional safe place within the classroom.
- Watch for warning signs for mental health struggles.
- Report all concerns to campus counselors or administration.
- Complete all required professional learning for mental health.
- Self-check yourself mentally, socially, and emotionally.
- Reach out to a school counselor, administrator or trusted adult if you need/want to visit about any concerns you have about yourself.

**Special Programs (Special Education, ESL, 504, Dyslexia, GT)**

- **Program Participation and Services** – Students currently participating in special program services, such as special education, 504, ESL, GT, and dyslexia will continue to receive services, including monitoring and intervention as established in program handbooks. Parent meetings may be held using in-person or virtual meeting platforms.
- **Evaluations and Testing** – District protocols have been established to evaluate students who have been referred for special programs. Social distancing and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used, as appropriate.

**Staff and Student Support**

- A safe learning environment will be provided.
- The district will provide: bullying prevention, suicide prevention, child abuse prevention, dating violence prevention, sexual harassment prevention.
- Certified counselors will be provided at each campus.

- A multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) will be provided.
- Interventions will be provided at all grade levels.
- Tutorials will be provided.