



**RETURN TO SCHOOL**

**2023-2024**

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To the Parents and Guardians of Tyler ISD Students,

Our administrative leadership team has redesigned the Tyler ISD **Return to School (R2S)** protocols for the 2023-2024 school year. We will continue to update this document as needed. Any updates throughout the school year will be indicated in the Table of Contents and the section itself. We will continue to have a Return to School plan until the end of the 2024 school year to comply with federal mandates.

We continue to be committed to the safety and security of our students and staff, following protocols to make that happen.

As with every school year, all students and staff are expected to follow our health and safety guidelines. We are moving in the best direction 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 Tyler ISD students back into the classroom for the 2023-2024 school year as we continue focusing on Successful Student Outcomes.

Marty Crawford, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



## Instructional Information for Families

Tyler ISD's in-school instructional practices ensures the safety of students and staff to the best of our ability. **Students will attend classes five days a week, with additional safety measures aligned with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.**

- Students will engage in high-quality learning experiences aligned to the 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. Homework assignments, class assignments, and/or assessments could occur inside Canvas;
- The Tyler ISD Grading Policies apply to Canvas and non-Canvas assignments.

### Technology

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

- 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;
- Students and families are expected to follow guidelines for care and use to ensure these public resources are effectively maintained as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook;
- 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. The District may change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances to protect the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. Please note that health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Tyler ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other relevant information 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, providing 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.

- 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.
- Proper handwashing/respiratory etiquette should be practiced by students and staff often throughout the day to help mitigate the spread of illness.

### Screening Protocols

- 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 visitors;
- Students, staff, or visitors may not enter a District facility if any of the following apply:
  - Fever (100.0 or greater)
  - Diarrhea/vomiting;
  - An individual MUST stay home until they have been free from the above symptoms for at least 24 hours without the use of medication before they may return to school
- Per TEA guidelines, parents and/or guardians must screen their students' health conditions 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;
  - An individual diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school when all three of the CDC symptom-based criteria are met:
    - five days since the start of symptoms or diagnosis;
    - 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications;
    - Improved symptoms.
- Community testing is available at local healthcare facilities and pharmacies. Contact your campus nurse for resources.
- People with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 should isolate for five days. After the 5-day isolation period, if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), the CDC recommends an individual follow that by five days of wearing a mask around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter.

- Any individual identified as having close contact with a COVID positive case should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for the next five 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.
- Vaccinations are available at Net Health. You can also contact your healthcare provider for more information.

### **Face Coverings**

In April of 2023, the President of the United States signed a bill terminating the national and public health emergencies regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. For safety and security, face coverings will not be allowed to be worn on Tyler ISD properties and should be immediately removed if requested by a staff member. If a student or staff member is immunocompromised and can provide physician documentation for wearing a mask, it will be allowed, and masks must be worn properly at all times.

## **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;
- All restrooms cleaned two times per day;
- Student classrooms and furniture disinfected daily;
  - Custodians will use the 360 Electro-static machines in classrooms, cafeterias, locker rooms, gyms, athletic equipment, and restrooms twice a week;
- Teacher desks, computers, and phones will be wiped and disinfected per request;
- All campuses will run auto floor scrubbers 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 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 and field trips.

Bus routes will run at regular capacity.

- All requests for transportation should be made through the registration process at the campus. Requests should be received 10 business days before the start of the school year.
- It is strongly recommended parents supervise their child at the bus stop until the bus arrives.
- An authorized adult must receive Kindergarten and 1st-grade students at the bus stop, or the child will be returned to the campus.
- Kindergarten students must have an older sibling riding the bus.
- Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for additional transportation information and guidelines.

## Cafeteria - Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast will be provided free of charge for all students in the District. Lunch will be free of charge for all elementary schools through the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Even though meals will be free for elementary schools, families will be asked to fill out the income questionnaire to aid the elementary schools with other funding and student programs throughout the school year.

Lunch applications must be completed for middle and high school campuses to qualify for the free/reduced meal program. Meal applications can be found online on the Tyler ISD Website, or a paper copy is available from the school or Food Service Office. Meal prices for middle and high school campuses will be posted on the Tyler ISD Food Service Department website.

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

## Campus Visitors

All campus visitors must check in through the campus front office per standard District protocols. As an extra security precaution, visitors will use the mouair phones to request access to the building.

## School Events and Activities

Any school wide events approved to be held on campus must adhere to the requirements outlined by Tyler ISD, TEA, and UIL. (Examples: grade-level pep rallies, assemblies, performances, etc.). PTA and Boosters must collaborate with and seek campus/district administration approval before any planned event.

## 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 necessary to manage emotions, achieve goals, show empathy for others, maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

**Student**

- Students are encouraged to contact their school counselor in person, by phone, or self-referral by completing the Crisis Go digital form or phone application.
- Students may request a referral to a Tyler ISD mental health counselor.

**Parent**

- Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about their social and emotional well-being;
- Assist in supporting your child's social and emotional needs by contacting the counselor when needed.
- 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 who need assistance and 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, social, and emotional needs;
- Refer students needing assistance to a campus counselor or mental health counselor.