

LA JOYA

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

BACK TO SCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



LA JOYA ISD PREPARES
STUDENTS TO

SHINE BRIGHT

TOWARD

Success!

1 How is school going to be this year? Will the students be all day in the same classroom (Elem., MS, HS)?

School will be held In-Person at all levels (Elementary, Middle and High School). Students will follow a regular school schedule (ES: 7:35 – 3:05, MS: 8:15 – 3:50, HS: 8:35 – 4:30). For students that are enrolled in multiple classes, these students will transition between teachers. Students will be reminded to adhere to the safety protocols during passing periods. Campus personnel will be in the hallways monitoring and enforcing safety protocols.

2 What would my child's day look like now that they go back to school? (the process).

We ask parents to screen their children before sending them to school. Once in the classrooms, students will follow their regular school schedule that will include lunch, PE, and elective courses. If enrolled in multiple classes, students will be allowed to transition from class to class. Teachers will social distance in the classroom and sneeze guard will be used in every desk. Disinfecting supplies will be available in the classroom.

3 Will my child have regular classroom activities (band, choir, dance) and what precautions will there be during these classes?

Yes, children will participate in electives and fine arts classes on their schedule. Students will be required to adhere to students safety protocols as they transition from class to class.

4 Will my children change classes in between or will they remain in the same classroom all day long? How will passing periods be managed for social distancing?

Students will be required to adhere to students' safety protocols as they transition from class to class. Campus staff will be in the hallways monitoring and enforcing that students follow our safety protocols.

5 How many students per classroom?

Classroom ratio for Elementary: K-4th 22 to 1 5th 25 to 1, Middle School: 25 to 1, and High School: 30 to 1.

6 Are the classrooms still using the plastic desk shields (e.g., plexiglass)?

Yes. All desks have been equipped with sneeze guards.

7 Will my child have P.E.?

Yes, La Jolla ISD will meet the state requirement for P.E. instruction. When the weather permits, class will be held in open air to mitigate transmission. Coaches will monitor and enforce our safety protocols and will physically distance students.

8 Will my child be able to drink water from the water fountain?

No, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 students will not be allowed to drink from water fountains. Instead, our CNS department will be providing water for our students. Our district will also be providing each student their own refillable water bottle and will install touchless water stations so that our students can refill their water bottles when necessary.

9**Will the school district be allowing field trips and travel?**

Field trips are not permitted at this time, unless they are essential to achieving the course learning outcomes and are approved by the District Crisis Team. Virtual activities and events must be pursued in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, and spirit nights, when possible.

10**Will face masks be required? (students and staff)**

In adherence to our Governor's mandate, face masks are optional. Our district is highly encouraging our students, staff and community to continue to wear them.

11**When and how will physical distancing be maintained throughout the school day?**

Whenever possible, our district will continue to adhere to the six-foot physical distancing recommendation. If the class size permits, students will be seated six feet apart. Class sizes will allow for 3 feet apart when possible. During passing periods or in areas of high-community transmission, students will be reminded to stay six feet apart and campus staff will monitor and enforce its implementation.

12**Will portable air cleaners with HEPA filters be used in classrooms and other relevant spaces in the school?**

All campuses will be equipped with portable air purifiers.

13**Is our district offering hybrid classes? If NO, why not?**

Research shows that students do better when they are in face- to- face instruction with their teacher. Providing face to face instruction will allow us to close the learning gaps created during the past year and a half. On campus instruction will allow for social emotional support for our students, for those reasons our district will not offer hybrid classes

14**What other options do we have if we don't want to send our children to school?**

The only option that our district is able to offer our community at this time is In-Person instruction. Due to compulsory requirements, we are encouraging our community to send their children to school on August 16th. Parents are invited to visit our schools to assess our safety protocols during our Meet the Teacher Nights or to schedule a campus visit by calling your campus principal.

STAFF**15****If a student/teacher test positive for COVID when going back to school are they immediately going to let parents know?**

Student and staff will immediately separate from their peers, the school community will be notified, and contact tracing protocols will be implemented. Refer to Safe Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan (pg. 25).

16**Will there be someone in charge in each campus enforcing safety rules?**

Yes, campus staff and administration will be implementing the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. Training will be provided to the school community. Campus staff will be reminding students and enforcing its adherence.

17**How will hand washing/ hand sanitization be monitored? Will the district count with sanitizing stations?**

As part of our safety protocols, students and staff are encouraged to constantly wash or sanitize their hands. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed across our campuses and in each classroom. Teachers will teach or review proper handwashing techniques and will remind students to wash or disinfect their hands prior to eating.

18**How will restrooms be monitored?**

Campus staff will limit the number of students that will be allowed in the restrooms at one time. Frequent disinfecting of restrooms will take place throughout the instructional day.

19**Does the district count with someone in charge of the COVID-19/ Response team/ plan and how will they communicate changes in school policy to parents/ students?**

Yes, the District Crisis Team meets multiple times a week to evaluate county and community positivity rates, evaluate and approve district activities and events and ensure our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan is aligned to local, state and federal safety guidelines and mandates. The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan can be found on the District Web page.

20**What measures will be put into place to monitor traffic flow into buildings? Will the school district still be open to parent volunteers?**

The campus administrators have formulated a plan of designated entry points to monitor the flow within the building to minimize traffic. Parent volunteers will be allowed into the building but will need to follow the same protocols as district employees; screen themselves before entering school buildings and limit their activities to the Parent Room.

21**What will happen to a student who develops symptoms during the school day? Will the district notify ALL the children's parents on who this student had contact with?**

Every campus has an isolation room and if needed the student will be quarantined awaiting parent pick up. If the student is diagnosed with COVID-19, then contact tracing will commence and student and staff who meet the definition of close contact will be notified as well as the parents.

22**If a student needs to be quarantined because they tested positive for COVID, how will he/she learn?**

If the student is well enough to receive remote conferencing instruction, then he/she will be allowed to sign in for synchronous instruction. This allowance must not to exceed more than 20 days over the entirety of the school year. Special Education classroom will have air purifiers.

23**What extra precautions, if any, will be implemented for special needs students? Will their teachers be required to get vaccinated?**

Our special needs students will adhere to the same safety protocols as the rest of the students. We highly recommend that our teachers be vaccinated; however, it is not required.

24**Will the school district provide remote instruction for students?**

Remote conferencing will only be provided to student who meet certain requirements:

- Student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition.
 - The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year.
 - In addition, one of the following requirements also must be met:
 - The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital.
 - The student has a positive test result for a communicable condition listed in 25 TAC 97.7.
 - The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19.
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25**What measures will be used to identify and respond to an outbreak at a school? Are ALL the La Joya ISD teachers required to be vaccinated?**

No, however we do have a large percentage of our staff who have been vaccinated due to the COVID-19 clinics that were offered in partnership with Hidalgo County Clinic.

If not, will they be allowed to teach students?

Yes, they will be allowed to teach our students.

26**Are students required to adhere to the dress code?**

The school district recommends and encourages the School Uniform Policy; however, it will not be required. A copy of the dress code can be found on the district website under Title IX: Student Handbook.

TRANSPORTATION

27**Will social distancing be implemented while riding the school bus?**

Spatial distancing will be adhered to when possible.

28**What safety measures will be put into place for students who ride the bus?**

Prior to boarding, parents are asked to screen their children before sending them to school. The student's temperature will be taken by the bus driver. Windows will be partially opened, when possible, to allow circulation of air. All busses will be equipped with anti-microbial and anti-bacterial solution products that are CDC and EPA approved to provide the safety of our students, and employees during transport to and from school.

CHILD NUTRITION

29**Where will my kids have lunch? In the Cafeteria or in the classroom?**

Campus administration has the discretion to plan lunch either in the cafeteria or in the classroom based on the campus enrollment.

30**How will lunch be distributed and where will students eat?**

Student meals (lunch) will be served to students following CNS protocols and procedures.

31**Will social distancing be implemented during their lunch period?**

Students will be encouraged to spatially distance.

32**Will recess be modified for this school year?**

Campuses will decide on their recesses schedule based on the personnel available for student supervision.

33**Once school starts, will there no longer be pick up lunches (free meals) for children that don't go to school?**

Meals will only be served at campuses to students who are present for instruction.

34**Are parents allowed to drop off lunch to children?**

For the safety of our students and staff any delivery of food from vendors other than LJISD CNS Department will not be allowed. Furthermore, meals with your child at your school will be suspended until further notice.

35**Can students bring lunch to school with them?**

Yes, parents can pack a school lunch for their children as long as they do not share with other classmates during lunch.

**LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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