



*Return to In-Person  
Instruction and Continuity of  
Services Plan (RIPICS)*

## **PAWNEE ISD RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN (RIPICS)**

Pawnee ISD has established the following return-to-campus protocols for campuses and administration buildings. The district will review this plan every six months and, as appropriate, revise it. The district will seek public comment on protocols and incorporate such input into plan revision while taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools. If deemed necessary, the plan can be translated to Spanish or another language and can be provided in an alternative, accessible format to a parent with a disability upon their request. Since this is an ever-changing situation, the district may need to adjust protocols in the future to address specific needs and/or circumstances to protect the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Pawnee 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.

### **ON CAMPUS FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION**

#### **Campus screening protocols**

All district faculty and staff will complete a self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms each day before entering any school facility as per CDC recommendations.

Employees must ask themselves if they have experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours:

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose

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- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea

The district may require further screening of employees at any time based on current state and federal guidelines. Employees exhibiting symptoms will be separated from others and sent home.

Parents and guardians will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms, including a temperature check, each day prior to sending them to school. If the student presents any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 (i.e. shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell), they should not come to school. Upon arrival to school, personnel will take each student's temperature as well. Students with a temperature reading higher than 100.2 degrees will be required to put on a face mask and will be immediately taken to a designated area. Parents or guardians will be required to promptly pick up any student with a temperature of 100.2 degrees or other COVID-19 symptoms.

Pawnee ISD will provide training and professional development for staff on sanitation and mitigating the spread of infectious disease.

### **Elementary**

In the morning, students will report to their class upon arrival between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. *unless* they are eating breakfast. Students eating breakfast will enter the cafeteria, get their breakfast, and then be seated. Students will be seated leaving a space in between to maintain social distancing. Students who arrive earlier than 7:30 a.m. will be seated in the cafeteria with a space in between to maintain social distancing.

### **Secondary**

Students who eat breakfast will go to the cafeteria. At 7:30 a.m. all students will go to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class to avoid students gathering in common areas.

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## **Before and After-School Programming**

Students in the ACE Before-School Program will report to their program classrooms as normal and employ social distancing when possible. The ACE After-School Program will continue with one hour of tutoring and one hour of enrichment activities. More spaces will be utilized to ensure social distancing as deemed necessary; activities will operate as classroom and recreational activities (such as PE) do during the regular school day.

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

Classroom protocols and procedures will include expectations for not sharing school supplies whenever possible, proper distancing, limited large group work, and hand washing or sanitizing upon each entrance, etc. Teachers will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces as well as shared objects in between classes. Thorough hand washing technique will be taught.

### **Elementary**

Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of people to minimize the spread of the virus. Students will be grouped with their class (lunch, recess, gym, music/art, and computer lab) and then within their class they will be grouped with three other students.

In classrooms where students are regularly within three to six feet of one another, teachers will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.

### **Secondary**

Class size will depend on the number of students who choose to participate in on-campus learning. Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible. Partitions will be used on a limited basis.

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**CAFETERIA**

**Elementary**

Based on building capacity and student enrollment, campus administration will determine areas that may be utilized for lunch. These areas could include the lunchroom, gym, the library, or other large areas within the school building.

Support staff and administrators will monitor the cafeteria and hallways to promote proper distancing practices. Depending on the number of students in the school, students may have meals in both the cafeteria and in the gym and library. Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines. Physical distance will be provided with an empty seat in between each student. Posted signage and staff will reinforce proper distancing and traffic patterns in the cafeteria. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at entrances and exits to the cafeteria.

All students are expected to wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to entering the cafeteria. Students obviously are not required to wear masks while eating or drinking, etc.

**Secondary**

Students eating in the cafeteria will be required to sanitize or wash their hands before entering. Students eating in the cafeteria will be socially distanced. There will be three lunch periods to divide PK-2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

**FACE COVERINGS**

Pawnee ISD will take into consideration the guidance provided by the county and state and will follow any executive orders. Administration will notify parents if the decision is made for students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> and up to wear masks. However, students and teachers may choose to wear face coverings when not required.

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**TRANSITIONS**

Student movement will be staggered to limit the number of people in various areas during transitions. Traffic patterns will be established to separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.

**VISITORS TO CAMPUS**

Campus visitors will be limited. Visitors will be expected to complete the required health screening of having their temperatures checked upon entry. Visitors who are screened and proceed beyond the reception area will follow specific guidelines for visitors.

Any visitors wishing to have lunch with a student must have prior approval from the campus principal at least one day in advance.

**WATER FOUNTAIN USAGE**

To mitigate the use of water fountains, students are expected to bring their own reusable water bottle for use throughout the day and are expected to take water bottles home to be cleaned daily.

Parents are asked to secure a reusable water bottle for their child to bring to school daily. Parents are asked to assist students, as needed, to clean water bottles daily.

Teachers and staff will demonstrate how students should fill water bottles instead of drinking directly from the water fountains. Teachers will ensure that students take water bottles home to be cleaned each day.

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**BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

**PE/Recess/Playground**

Administrators will provide training for staff on guidelines and procedures associated with outdoor play and student activities. Administrators will develop a schedule for students to access the playground equipment. Teachers will monitor students to ensure safety guidelines are followed. Campuses may consider limiting the number of students per recess group. Staggered schedules and consistent cohorts may be utilized.

Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students. PE equipment will be disinfected and wiped down after each use. Visual markers on the gym floor will serve as reminders of proper distancing rules. Students should avoid touching their face at all times, but especially while playing games. Access to handwashing will be provided during PE.

**Secondary**

Middle school PE, athletics, and band will be separated by grade level. Further guidelines for extracurriculars will be provided by coaches and sponsors.

**GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR PLAY**

Students may wear masks during an outdoor activity. Students should maintain proper distancing while lining up to return to class and sanitize or wash hands before re-entering.

All students and staff are expected to wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering the playground and upon exiting the playground.

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**MUSIC AND ART**

Appropriate distancing measures will be followed. Music equipment will be sanitized after each use.

Students will use their own art supplies and avoid sharing equipment as much as possible. Workstations will be sanitized between each use. Art equipment will be sanitized after each use.

**LIBRARY**

Visual reminders will be added, and furniture rearranged to help students maintain proper distancing while in the library. Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon entering and after visiting the library.

**AT HOME VIRTUAL LEARNING**

Pawnee ISD will offer an at-home learning option for instruction during the 2021-2022 school year and beyond if needed. At-home learning will require the following:

1. Students choosing to utilize the home learning option are not allowed to re-enroll in on-campus face-to-face instruction for 6 weeks or until the end of the NEXT grading period.
2. Students will be held to the same level of rigor as the students who attend in-person.
3. Students will be held to the same attendance rules as the students who attend in-person.
4. Students will be held to the same grading policy as the students who attend in-person. This includes assignment deadlines and class participation.
5. Students in grade 3-12 will be required to be present at the same time virtually. Parents of these students should anticipate their children spending between three and six hours daily online with teacher interaction and accountability. They will follow a daily schedule similar to a regular



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school day and be required to participate in live interactive classes throughout the day.

6. Parents with a student in Pre-K – 2nd will support students as a “learning coach” and ensure they have access to a device, a quiet place to work, and are engaged in virtual learning activities. Additionally, parents will acknowledge their need to supervise their child(ren)'s learning, attendance, etc. Parents will have to be much more involved in their student's remote learning activities compared to face-to-face learning.
7. Parents will acknowledge their student has quality access to Internet connectivity, etc.
8. Students participating in at-home learning will be expected to:
  - a. Attend class on time per their class schedule;
  - b. Dress appropriately;
  - c. Be ready to learn;
  - d. Have a designated workspace in their home free from distractions;
  - e. Show their face on the screen to engage with the teacher virtually;  
and
  - f. Actively participate in the class.

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**CONTINUITY OF SERVICES**

Pawnee ISD has developed the following procedures which will help ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address student's academic needs and students and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

**Academic Needs**

- Virtual Learning Program – Allows us to bring a quality education experience to all our families and provide them a choice for learning during this current pandemic. Virtual Learning will be provided for the entirety of this school year.
- Remote Conferencing – Pawnee ISD offers Remote Conferencing as a mechanism by which remote instruction can be provided to students. Students who qualify include:
  - Students who are unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition or
  - Students who have a positive test result for a communicable condition listed in 25 TAC §97.7 or
  - The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19.
- Food Services – Is currently providing meals in the classroom to help with social distancing and minimizing exposure. The district is also providing meals for supper. In the event of the district going virtual, our Child Nutrition Department would be able to provide meals curbside and open community sites.
  - From March 2020 – June 2021 curbside meals were provided. Approximately 133,000 breakfast meals and 144,000 lunch meals were distributed.

**Students and staff**

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- Social/Emotional/Mental Health
  - Social Emotional support is provided by Student Services through the Diversion Program. 10 total hours of guidance and support sessions are provided.
  - Social workers and Psychologist are available to the campuses and provide Social Emotional Learning presentations based on the campus areas of need. A platform called Panorama is used.
  - Social services are provided to our districts students and families as needed through our Student Services department.
- Other Needs/Academics
  - Wraparound Specialists monitor attendance, grades and behaviors and address any ongoing issues.
  - Wraparound Specialists provide reading, writing, problem solving skills to improve student's comprehension.

### **Maintain the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, Other School and LEA Staff**

- Face Masks recommended at all district facilities as per CDC guidelines
  - Pawnee ISD School Board voted to recommend masks in schools as per CDC guidelines. The resolution states:
    - Pawnee ISD staff, students, parents, and all visitors at Pawnee ISD facilities are henceforth recommended to wear protective facemasks, unless expressly excused from such requirement in writing for medical reasons a licensed physician.
    - Pawnee ISD staff, students, parents, and all visitors at Pawnee ISD facilities are henceforth required to follow all CDC and local District practices with respect to maintaining social distancing.

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- This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Board of Trustees.
- We are still following the recommendation from the County health authority to continue with 10-day isolation for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Encouraging social distancing in all district facilities
- Temperature Check and & Health Screenings for all students and staff
- Hand Sanitizer stations placed throughout all district facilities
- EPA disinfectants that are approved for use against COVID-19 are used to thoroughly clean and disinfect all classrooms, cafeterias, gyms, auditoriums, restrooms and all additional areas in schools and district facilities throughout the day.
- Electrostatic gun used to fog offices, classrooms, hallways and doors wait 30-45 minutes and then wipe down all student desks, office furniture.
- Students, parents, and staff are notified of a positive COVID-19 case at a campus. Individuals believed to have been in close contact will also be identified and notified by the Health Services Dept.
- Plexiglass Dividers – Thousands orders to help prevent and reduce the transmission of COVID-19
- Contactless Water Dispensers – Used to help minimize the risk of individuals drinking from the same water fountain. Students and staff are asked to bring their own reusable water bottles.

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**PAWNEE ISD COVID-19 STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL**

**Prevention**

**(No confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff or students)**

**Procedures/Activities:**

- Health prevention measures are in place.
- Daily intensive cleaning and frequent cleaning of common areas.
- Limited visitor access.
- Monitoring virus trends in the community via health departments.

If these conditions are present, Pawnee ISD would use a regular Monday-Friday schedule for all students in addition to remote learning for those families that choose.

The district will ensure inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrades to improve air quality in school facilities, including:

- Mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems;
- Filtering purification and other cleaning, fans, control systems; and
- Window and door repair and replacement.

**Mitigation**

**(One or more confirmed active case(s) of COVID-19 at one facility)**

**Procedures/Activities:**

- Persons who came within close contact of an individual with a confirmed

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case of COVID-19 will be personally contacted by district personnel and advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- Affected area is closed for deep cleaning.
- Self-health monitoring, prevention information, and “stay-home-if-ill” communication to all persons at the school or facility. Affected area is closed for deep cleaning.
- If these conditions are present, we would use a regular Monday-Friday schedule for all students in addition to remote learning for those families that choose. Large group and/or "high-risk" activities will continue to be restricted as needed.

<b>Modified Operations</b> <b>(Three or more confirmed active COVID-19 cases in 1 specific area)</b>
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**Procedures/Activities:**

- Students and staff of that area will be advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Students impacted move to remote learning.
- Affected area is closed for deep cleaning.
- Self-health monitoring, prevention information, and “stay-home-if-ill” reminders sent to all persons at the school or facility.

If these conditions are present, we would use a regular Monday-Friday schedule for all students in addition to remote learning for those families that choose so. Large group and/or "high risk" activities will continue to be restricted as needed.

<b>Facility Closure</b> <b>(Active COVID-19 cases exceed 10 or more in one facility)</b>
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**Procedures/Activities:**

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- Entire faculty will be closed for a minimum of two days.
- All students and staff at this campus may return if symptom-free upon determination by the school district and health authorities.
- Those in close contact of the confirmed COVID-19 positive persons will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days per CDC guidelines.
- District-wide communication to staff/parents with health monitoring guidance.

If those conditions are present, we will move to an alternating day schedule. Students in grades Pre-K, 1, 3, 5, and 7 will go to school Monday and Thursday. Students in grades K, 2, 4, 6, and 8 will go to school Tuesday and Friday. There will be remote learning for all grade levels on days not attending school in-person. On Wednesdays, the campus will be closed for deep cleaning. Social distancing protocols will be closely monitored, and "high-risk" activities may be restricted or prohibited.

<b>District Closure</b> <b>(Active COVID-19 cases exceed 15% of occupancy in any facility)</b>
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- All Pawnee ISD facilities close for a minimum of 14 days.
- Disinfection of all facilities and school buses.
- All auxiliary areas such as playgrounds and athletic fields are closed. Extracurricular activities are cancelled.

\*If those conditions are present, instruction ceases until threat level improves. Some small-group instruction may be allowed with strict social distancing protocols in place.

If the number of cases in Bee County increases past a certain threshold deemed unsafe, the district will plan for, coordinate, and implement activities for a long-term closure, including:

- Providing meals to students;
- Providing technology for online learning to all students; and

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- Ensuring educational services meet all federal, state, and local requirements.

In the event of a school closure, students will be able to make up any lost instructional time during June of 2022.

*\*Re-entry plan must be posted on district website within 30 days of receiving ESSER III Notice of Grant Award. School must include its website address in ESSER III Application.*