

PLAINS ISD

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Parents and Students of Plains ISD,

This letter is to inform you of four things:

1. The termination of online only instruction starting **Tuesday, October 27th, 2020.**
2. The resumption of five days a week instruction starting **Monday, November 2, 2020.**
3. Two new teacher workdays with no students on **November 9th** and **December 7th.**
4. **Starting Monday, November 2nd, 2020, the school day will begin ending at 4:00 p.m.**

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, Plains ISD offered two instructional methods to students: On-campus with hybrid or traditional, and remote, with virtual instruction.

After careful consideration and input from teachers, administrators, and district families, the Plains ISD Board of Trustees has voted to suspend virtual instruction effective on Tuesday, October 27th. ***This means that any student currently receiving virtual instruction only are expected to report for school on campus beginning Tuesday, October 27th, 2020.***

The decision to end virtual instruction was not taken lightly; however, district and campus administrators believe it is in the best interest of Plains ISD students. The district is currently serving 95% of the student population traditionally. The percentage of our remote, virtual students who are showing to have remained actively engaged throughout the entire process is less than 2% which means that the remote, virtual instruction is not working effectively for over half the students enrolled in that program. Our teachers and administrators have made numerous attempts to reach and engage virtual learners but have seen minimal improvement or success. As a school district, it is our job to serve students and provide them with the best possible educational opportunities.

Starting Tuesday, October 27th, 2020, traditional instruction is the only learning method available to Plains ISD students (with the exception of serious existing health conditions, to whom campus administrators may make available Virtual Instruction on a case-by-case basis). We will still do online learning for students who have to quarantine for a set amount of time.

Attendance Guidelines

Students Receiving Traditional (On-Campus) Instruction:

1. Students receiving traditional, on-campus learning will be coded absent for periods/days missed and will be given a day of make-up time equal to the number of days absent to complete make-up work. Student absence guidelines are outlined in the Plains ISD Student/Family Handbook

Quarantined Students:

1. Quarantined students are defined as students being required to stay home for COVID-19 related reasons by district or campus administrators, medical professionals, or county health

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officials. Any absences accrued while a student is awaiting COVID-19 test results will be corrected when the student is coded as Q, or quarantined.

2. In order to be counted present (coded R for Remote Present), quarantined students will receive make-up work and must demonstrate either daily progress, daily coursework completion, or daily progress via teacher-student interactions. **If the quarantined student does not adhere to Remote Present criteria, the student is considered absent.**

For families who do not want their child(ren) to return to face-to-face on campus instruction, there are numerous alternatives. You can transfer to another district that is doing remote instruction, utilize the Texas Virtual Academy or choose to homeschool your children. If one of these options is what you select to do, please contact your child's campus to complete the required paperwork indicating your decision for your child's continued education.

Starting November 2nd, 2020, Plains ISD will be going back to Monday through Friday face-to-face instruction. These plans may change due to the ongoing concerns of COVID-19, but the plan is to go back five days a week in November and December for sure with the exceptions of ***two new teacher workdays (student holiday) that we are adding to the calendar on November 9th and December 7th.*** We feel these two days are necessary to help our teachers keep up with the demands of doing face-to-face instruction and the online components as well.

Also, starting November 2nd, 2020, the school day will be extended to 4:00 p.m. for all grade levels. There are two reasons for this.

- 1) With the uncertainty of our days due to COVID-19, weather, etc., it has become necessary for us to add some minutes to the day in order to make sure we do not have to add days at the end of the school year to hit our minute requirements for the State of Texas.
- 2) The minutes will allow us to best serve students not just each day, but will provide flexibility in case of uncertainty for the remainder of this school year.

Thank You,



Robert McLain
Plains ISD
Superintendent