



# SIDNEY ISD's BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

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In this plan, you will find the most up to date information at this time for SISD. The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or healthy officials or as environmental conditions change. Please visit [www.sidney.esc14.net](http://www.sidney.esc14.net) for any future revisions or updates. As always, the safety and security of SISD students, families, teachers and staff is our top priority. We can't wait to see our students again and look forward to a successful 2020-2021 school year in the SISD!

James Rucker  
Sidney ISD Superintendent

Deanna Drummond  
Sidney ISD Principal

## Instructional Information Overview

Sidney ISD will provide families with two options for instruction to choose from for the 20-21 school year beginning August 17th, 2020.

- ❑ Traditional, in-person instruction on campus with safety precautions; or
- ❑ Remote learning at home

Synchronous Instruction Requires students and teacher to be present at the same time online (3rd-12th grades)

Curriculum is fully aligned to the TEKS and designed to ensure all TEKS are covered by the end of the year

Instructional schedule meets the minimum number of daily minutes to meet full day finding:

3rd--5th 180 instructional minutes

6th--12th 240 instructional minutes

- Live interactive classes with students and teachers participating in real time
- Teacher-supported work time on video conference calls
- Scheduled assignments and online tests using learning system such Google Classroom

Asynchronous Instruction Does not require students and teacher to be present online at the same time (K-12th grades)

Curriculum is fully aligned to the TEKS and designed to ensure all TEKS are covered by the end of the year

Instructional schedule meets the minimum number of daily minutes to meet full day finding:

Kindergarten--5th 180 instructional minutes

6th--12th 240 instructional minutes

- Daily engagement is required, including but not limited to Google Classroom, in order to be considered "present"
- Self-paced online courses with intermittent teacher instruction
- Pre-assigned work with formative assessments on paper or in learning system such Google Classroom
- Pre-recorded videos of instruction

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- The grading policy will be followed and numerical grades taken and are consistent with those used before COVID for on campus assignments
  - Grades will factor into class rank and GPA for students in courses for high school credit
  - Daily attendance will be required for remote 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. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year.
  - If a parent who chooses remote learning wants to switch their child to an on-campus instructional setting, they can do so, but school systems are permitted to limit these transitions to occur only at the end of a grading period.

## **In accordance with TEA's Public Health Planning Guidance**

### **Notice:**

SISD's Communication Plan for Parents and the Public

- Sidney ISD website (<http://www.sidney.esc14.net>)
- Sidney ISD School Messenger Notification System
- Sidney Eagle Facebook page

Contacts for concerns or questions

- SISD administrators
- Front office secretary

Attendance and Enrollment

- Daily attendance will be required for remote 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. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-21 school year.
- SISD will provide parents notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic using a document published by TEA.

### **Prevention:**

SISD's practices to prevent the virus from entering the school

- ❑ All teachers and staff will be required to complete a self-screening process for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed at

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the end of this document. The self screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the school system if they themselves have 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 as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school system if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined below, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

- ❑ Students will go through the screening process, as noted below, prior to boarding the school bus. Students should practice social distancing as they approach and board the bus. All students riding the bus will be required to wear a mask.
- ❑ Students will go through a screening process, as noted below, when they arrive on campus by vehicle. There will be a screening checkpoint in front of the gymnasium for parents dropping off students and when students arrive in their own vehicles.
- ❑ Parents are encouraged to avoid dropping off students too early, preferably no earlier than 7:20am
- ❑ Student drivers will also be encouraged to avoid early arrival.
- ❑ All visitors will be subject to screening before entering any Sidney ISD facility.
- ❑ Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms, as listed below, or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

## **Response:**

Practices to respond to 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, see below, must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the individual meets the three-step set of criteria for re-entry:
  - i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - iii. 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

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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.
- ❑ Any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms will be immediately separated while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- ❑ If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health 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).
- ❑ Sidney will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.
- ❑ Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, Sidney ISD will 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.
- ❑ Decisions regarding the closure of classrooms or campuses will be made in coordination with the local health department and other medical advisors. The actions taken in a particular case will depend on the number of people with whom the infected individual had close contact and the facts of that specific case.

## **Mitigation:**

SISD's practices to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 spreading within the school

- ❑ Provide each classroom with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.
- ❑ Hand sanitizing stations located at every entrance, hallway locations, cafeteria, fieldhouse and gymnasium
- ❑ All employees will be trained to specifically follow health safety protocols
- ❑ Provide all teachers with no-touch thermometers
- ❑ Implement daily health screenings for all students prior to entering campus.
- ❑ Modify daily cleaning schedules to ensure each space is sanitized and disinfected multiple times a day; and deep cleaning of campuses once a week
- ❑ Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.

- ❑ Classroom furniture will be rearranged to ensure maximum physical distancing and improve traffic flow. Desks and tables in the classroom will be spaced apart a minimum of six feet when possible.
- ❑ Work areas will be sanitized after each class. Students will be taught and encouraged to clean their own work areas, as feasible, custodians will workstations on a scheduled basis.
- ❑ Students are to bring their own refillable water bottles, clear bottles only, as water fountains will not be accessible.
- ❑ Staff will monitor the classrooms, hallways, playground, and cafeteria to promote social distancing practices.
- ❑ Sidney ISD will comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. (Executive Order No. GA-29, requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases) Teachers, staff, and students over the age of 10 must wear a mask or face shield. Although it is not mandatory 10 years and younger to wear a mask or face shield, it is encouraged.
  - It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, Sidney ISD must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Sidney ISD will allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields. However, Sidney ISD must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.
  
- ❑ Athletics and extracurricular activities will be conducted in alignment with UIL guidelines.
- ❑ A grab-n-go breakfast will be provided to all students arriving in the mornings to take to their first period class.
- ❑ Lunch will be offered in the classroom for K-5th grade students to limit contact between other students.
- ❑ When weather permits, junior high and high school students (during their designated lunch time, who bring their lunch from home) will have access to outside tables while practicing social distancing.
- ❑ Staggered lunch schedule will be implemented for junior high and high school students to limit cafeteria capacity.
- ❑ Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines. A seating plan in the cafeteria for students will be followed for social distancing.

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- ❑ K-5th graders will remain self-contained within their classes during playground activities. SISD will develop a schedule for students to access the playground equipment while staggering schedules so that consistent cohorts are utilized. Teachers will monitor students to ensure safety guidelines are followed.
  - ❑ All students and staff will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the playground and upon exiting the playground.
  - ❑ Sidney ISD will require students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip.
  - ❑ Whenever possible, Sidney ISD will open windows or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building.
  - ❑ On the first day a student attends school on campus, Sidney ISD will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices.

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## **Screening Process**


- Close contact (see below) with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days (Yes or No)
- Any COVID -19 signs or symptoms (see below) (Yes or No)
- Temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit (Yes or No)

## **Close Contact**

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual 9 scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is



defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

## **Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question: Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees F
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- Runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting

## **Campus Re-entry Criteria**

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.

\* Sidney ISD's Reopening Task Force will be continuously reviewing this document and other possible structures for students safely returning to school. The task force will engage in frequent planning to share important updates and review the district's safety protocols. Sidney ISD is in frequent contact with federal, state and local government and public health agencies for the most current information, including the latest guidelines and recommendations issued for the Texas Education Agency.