

# SABINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



## **Fall 2020-2021** **Return to School Guidance** *In Response to COVID-19*

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## Introduction

We are excited about the upcoming school year, even though school may look a little different, we know that the best place for kids is in school where they can interact with their peers and learn. While there are many things to consider as we reopen our buildings on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, we feel confident that we will be able to provide a safe and healthy environment in which our kids and staff can learn and teach!

## Learning Opportunities at Sabine ISD

Sabine ISD will offer two options of instructional delivery models for our students:

1. On-Campus Learning Instruction
2. Remote Learning Instruction

*The Remote Learning Instruction option is provided for our families who have health and safety concerns with sending their children back to school.*

Parents will choose either On-Campus Learning Instruction or Remote Learning Instruction (Asynchronous).

Beginning **Monday, July 27, 2020**, parents/guardians will receive information from Sabine ISD asking them to make a commitment for their child(ren) to choose either On-Campus Learning Instruction or Remote Learning Instruction. In order for SISD to finalize staffing requirements, we are asking that this commitment be made no later than **4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2020**.

Your child's schedule and teacher assignments cannot be finalized until we receive your commitment regarding the Fall 2020 learning setting.

Students will be expected to learn in their chosen setting (in-person or at-home) through at least a 6-week grading period in order to limit scheduling and staffing complexities. We understand that circumstances could change for our families throughout the semester, and adjustments will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

***The COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid and evolving situation. This information is subject to change as we receive additional guidance from TEA, the Governor and state/local officials.***

## Remote Learning Instruction: Asynchronous Instruction Guidelines

- Internet connection is required in order to choose Remote Learning Instruction.
- Students will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities unless enrolled in On-Campus Learning Instruction.
- Students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities that are primarily delivered through on-line platforms.
- Students engage in the learning materials on their own time **EACH DAY**, interacting intermittently with the teacher(s) via the computer or other electronic devices or over the phone.
- Daily student participation in the learning activities will be **REQUIRED** in order to be counted present for the day. Students in PK-5 must show documented engagement with on-line learning platforms and assignments for at least 180 minutes per day. Students in grades 6-12 must show the same for at least 240 minutes per day.
- The student is only engaged if there is adequate progress in the on-line platform for the day. Progress is established from the teacher/student interactions that day or if there is a completed assignment turned in that was given by the teacher the same day.
- A care-giver will need to be available to support younger students in navigating the daily schedule and to provide assistance with the learning as needed.
- Remote Learning Instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the academic standards called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content area.
- Expectations for coursework and grading guidelines **will be the same** for both Remote Learning Instruction and On-Campus Learning Instruction.
- Independent learning activities will be scheduled during the instructional time for Remote Learning Instruction. Student participation in this setting requires **5 full days per week**.
- Remote Learning Instruction is available for students in PK through grade 12.
- Instruction will be provided by Sabine ISD teachers in core content and some elective areas using district-adopted curriculum.

- Accommodations and support services will be provided virtually where possible. Some specialized services may be provided on campus.

### **On-Campus Learning Instruction: Traditional Instruction Guidelines**

- Students will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities unless enrolled in On-Campus Learning Instruction.
- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face-to-face learning on campus all day, every day.
- Secondary students in grades 6-12 will follow their class schedules by transitioning to different classrooms for course instruction.
- Classroom instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the academic standards, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), for each content area.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for On-Campus Learning Instruction and Remote Learning Instruction will be the same.
- On-Campus Learning Instruction will be available for students in PK through Grade 12.
- Student participation will be required 5 full days per week.
- Instruction will be provided by Sabine ISD teachers.
- Instruction will be done in core content and elective areas.
- District curriculum will be utilized.
- Accommodations and support services will be provided.
- Implementation of preventive safety measures per CDC guidelines will be put in place to the greatest extent possible.
- Sabine ISD will require masks to the maximum extent possible. There may be times when it is not feasible to wear a mask inside the school buildings. However, SISD must follow the current Executive Order at the time of school opening on Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

- All classroom desks will be cleaned after each class change.
- All classrooms will be sanitized each day after students are dismissed for the day.

### **Health and Safety Measures**

Sabine ISD will work to ensure all students, staff and community members remain healthy and safe by following best practices in the areas of:

- Guidance, directives and recommendations from health authorities
- Health & safety information, social distancing and infection control practices (handwashing, face coverings)
- Health office practices, personal protective equipment (PPE), management and isolation of students showing signs of illness
- Staff will self-screen daily, using health guidelines provided by local health agencies, the CDC, and the state of Texas Department of State Health Services.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and office area, as well as in the cafeteria, locker room areas and entrances.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly and regularly.
- Students will be trained on the control of the spread of COVID-19, once school starts.
- No assemblies of greater than 50 students allowed.
- Outside food vendors will not be permitted on campus to deliver food.
- Parents are not allowed in the school building except under extenuating circumstances. Adults entering the building should always conduct a self-health screening, wash or sanitize hands prior to entering, practice social distancing and wear masks.
- If there are extenuating circumstances that necessitate a parent entering the school, only one parent per child will be allowed to enter to minimize the number of entering persons.

## **Infection Control Measures**

- Staff will wear face coverings except for areas/times designated by the CDC.
- Students will wear face coverings except for areas/times designated by the CDC.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet is encouraged where possible-12 feet between cohort groups.
- Students will be able to bring personal water bottles to use throughout the day.
- Restroom capacity will be examined and measures will be in place for social distancing.
- Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE). A limited supply of PPE from the Texas Education Agency will be provided as needed to staff and students.

## **Health Screenings**

- Staff will be required to complete daily self-health screening.
- Student health screenings must be done by parents/guardians each day, to ensure that any child showing symptoms of COVID-19 is not sent to school. The school must be notified if this situation arises immediately so that proper coding can be recorded for that student.
- Students found showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be evaluated and screened by the school nurse.
- An isolation area has been identified on each campus for these children.

## **Learning Environments**

- Daily wiping of high hand-touch areas will be done.
- Hand sanitizer will be in each classroom, at entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations will be restricted.
- Mixing between cohort groups will be limited as much as possible.
- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students

## **Student Nutrition / Cafeteria**

- Recommended health and safety measures, such as staff wearing face coverings and gloves will be followed.
- Cafeteria staff will do health checks daily before entering the building.
- Sanitizing and hand washing practices in all areas of the kitchen and serving area will be followed.
- Sanitizing stations placed throughout the cafeteria.
- Staff trained on revised food preparation, serving, cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Clean and sanitize serving areas between each lunch group.
- Wrapped disposable utensils will be included with meals.
- Individual packaged fresh fruits and vegetables will be served with meals.
- Portioned entrees and vegetables will be served with meals to eliminate self-service.
- Social distancing will be followed in cafeteria and serving lines.

## Transportation

- We encourage parents to bring their children to school and pick them up after school during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading.
- All buses will be sanitized and wiped down daily after each route.
- **ALL STUDENTS** (including under 10 years of age) riding a bus and bus drivers will be required to wear a mask.
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation when weather permits.
- To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats according to siblings/households, and the bus driver will maintain a seating chart.

## Campus Procedures Related to COVID-19

- If a campus is notified that a student or staff member has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, the student or staff member will be required to stay home until the return to school criteria is met.
- If a student or staff member is assessed and experiences symptoms of COVID-19 that are not normal for them during the school day, the classroom students will be located in an alternate area while the room is being disinfected.
- District communication will be provided to the students who came in contact with a student or staff member displaying COVID-19 symptoms that are not normal for them.
- At this time, we have not been provided with specific criteria regarding the number of positive cases that would lead to a classroom or campus closure.
- Students exposed to a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 outside of school should stay home, begin at-home learning, and contact the school for instructions on meeting the return to school criteria.

## **Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19**

- Students or staff who show or report symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse. Students and staff are required to self-report.
- If COVID-19 symptoms that are not normal for an individual person are present, staff members will be sent home and students will be isolated from other students until a parent/guardian arrives to take them home.
- Students will be escorted to the vehicle upon parent arrival.
- The campus nurse or campus administration will provide parents/guardians/staff with return-to-school criteria.
- Contact tracing for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be maintained.