



La Porte Independent School District

Back to School Plans for 2020-2021

The Texas Education Agency on July 7 shared the initial steps that will lead to students returning back to Texas Public Schools. This message is to inform our stakeholders of La Porte ISD's back-to-school plans.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our society, it is important that you know that student safety will always be our top priority in the district. As we work toward the first day of school, we urge families to continue following health recommendations to prevent the spread of the virus. Information is available at:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.

A team of principals and representatives from our health services, child nutrition, transportation, school safety, communications, technology, and other departments have already met to create plans for each area. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic is extremely fluid, which means we have to prepare for a number of possibilities.

We are planning to start school on Wednesday, August 19. Beginning in mid-July, the district will begin sharing these plans in greater detail. At that point, we believe we will have a better idea of how the beginning of school will look. For now, we can share the following:

INSTRUCTIONAL LEARNING MODELS

La Porte ISD will offer two different instructional delivery formats for the 2020-2021 school year: face-to-face instruction and virtual learning. We will focus on working through the learning management system - Microsoft Teams for Prekindergarten through 12th grade. Students will be taught how to access instructional applications, how to submit an assignment, how to communicate with their teachers and peers, and how to access needed support at their respective grade levels. Similarly, we will familiarize parents with these learning platforms along with the other resources that will be utilized with face-to-face and virtual learning.

Virtual learning for our district may take two forms: real-time instruction between teachers and students through the use of technology (synchronous). The second form involves far more self-guided instruction through which students interact intermittently with the teacher via technology daily (asynchronous). Attendance will be taken daily. The district grading policy will be the same for face-to-face instruction and virtual learning.



La Porte Independent School District

While many parents support reopening our schools, we understand that some parents may choose to keep their child home due to a health concern involving the student or a close family member. We certainly understand that concern and will do our best to accommodate the needs of students who want to continue virtual learning from home.

DAILY SANITIZING OF FACILITIES

All facilities will be sanitized daily, and we will follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible.

Public access to schools will be significantly restricted. Visitors and deliveries will be limited to specific areas of the campus. Hand sanitizer will be provided for all campuses and facilities. La Porte ISD will receive a state allotment of gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer.

PARENT SURVEY AND SUPPORT

We appreciate the responses to the survey we sent to parents, giving them the opportunity to share their views on the reopening of schools, to include things pertinent to the health and safety of students while at school.

We will be sending a follow-up survey to afford parents the opportunity to let us know how they would like their student to start school on August 19, 2020. We look forward to hearing from you, our parents, as we all plan for this unique opening to school!

Once we have more definitive plans in place, we will need your support with encouraging students to follow social distancing guidelines and other recommended health practices off-campus as well as at school. Our plans to keep our schools as safe as possible simply won't work without your cooperation.

On behalf of the hundreds of teachers, administrators, and other members of La Porte ISD, we are looking forward to the day when we can see our students' smiling faces moving about throughout our halls, classrooms and campuses. We greatly appreciate you allowing us to provide the education of your child, and we look forward to sharing in the learning, growth and development of every child in our care.

Moving forward, we plan to communicate with our stakeholders often on the progress of our reopening of school. We appreciate your support and we welcome your feedback. We look forward to seeing your child on August 19, 2020!

In your service,

Walter Jackson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



La Porte Independent School District

La Porte ISD Re-Opening Plan

Public Health Guidance

General

The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials, or as environmental conditions change.

Attendance and Enrollment

Face-to-Face Instruction or Virtual Learning

General

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), 25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) 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 2020-2021 school year.
- Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through face-to-face or virtual instruction.
- Parents will choose their student's mode of instruction, however, changes from one mode to the other will only be permitted at the end of a grading period.



La Porte Independent School District

Student & Staff Safety Protocols

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

General

All students and staff will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms regularly and individuals who present with symptoms will be separated and sent home.

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following:

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 100.0 degrees
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea



La Porte Independent School District

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield.

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 day at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptoms onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab tests.

Screening Protocols

- Staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day to include taking temperature.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.
- Teachers will monitor student health and refer students to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Isolation Protocols

Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine whether a student needs to be sent home.



La Porte Independent School District

- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contact the student's parent/guardian. School transportation will not be provided.
- Other students will be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different classroom, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- District communication will be provided to the parents of students who come in close contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow La Porte ISD and TEA guidelines.
- Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and may not return to campus during that time.

Face Masks and Protective Measures

Staff Expectations

- Staff must wear a face mask while at work.

Student Expectations

- All students will wear face masks while at school. Face shields may be worn in addition to face masks.
- If a medical condition exists that may impact the wearing of a mask, parents should submit medical certification/documentation to the school nurse and principal for consideration.
- It may be impractical for students to wear masks while participating in non-UIL athletic or other extra-curricular activities (e.g. band, athletics, CTE).



La Porte Independent School District

Protocols for Campus Visitors

General

Campuses will utilize virtual meetings to engage families. All visitors who enter the building will be required to wear a face mask while on campus. To protect the health and safety of students and practice social distance guidelines, parents are not permitted to eat lunch with their student during the 2020-2021 school year.

Visitor Screening/PPE Requirements

- All individuals entering a campus will be required to wear face masks.
- Individuals proceeding beyond the reception area will be subject to the following guidelines:
 - All visitors will be subject to screening, including temperature checks and a symptom screening form.
 - Visitors and staff will adhere to safety protocols for necessary on-campus meetings.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

General

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of students and staff in common areas.

Handwashing/Sanitizing Expectations

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in common areas and upon entry to the classroom.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.



La Porte Independent School District

- Provide periodic teacher reminders to wash and/or sanitize hands during the instructional day, after using the restroom and before eating.

Disinfecting Expectations

- Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

General

Staff will be trained in appropriate methods of cleaning and disinfecting to promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily.
- All high touch areas will be disinfected daily.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected throughout the day.

Additional Cleaning Measures for Covid-19 Positive Cases on Campus

- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, a recommended disinfectant will be used.



La Porte Independent School District

Work and Learning Environments

Classroom Configurations and Procedures

- Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:
 - Visual reminders of distancing practices and requirements in all classrooms and common spaces
 - Access to hand sanitizer
 - Access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces
- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- Students will have access to hand sanitizer.
- Limit shared supplies.
- Teachers will develop, teach, and implement procedures that:
 - Limit student movement within the classroom such as turning in assignments, materials being passed out, etc.
 - Encourage students to clean personal areas, materials, and supplies with disinfectant.
 - Outline handwashing protocols and use of hand sanitizer.
- If tables are used, limit the number of students per table and identify which seats are to be used to provide as much social distancing as possible.
- To the extent possible, keep doors open between classes to minimize contact with doors and door handles by students and staff entering or exiting classrooms.
- The gymnasiums may be repurposed for instructional space for teaching and/or virtual learning to increase the teaching capacity of the building.
- Recommended safety protocols will be applied to all classroom settings.



La Porte Independent School District

Physical Education Classroom Protocols

- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum social distancing between students.
- Any activities bringing students into close physical contact will follow TEA and UIL guidelines.
- Staff will provide visual and verbal reminders of social distancing rules.
- Procedures will be implemented in locker rooms to maximize social distancing.
- Equipment will be disinfected after each use.
- Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing will be provided.

Collaborative Work and Projects

- Technology or other social distancing measures will be utilized when students are involved in collaborative work.

Special Education Considerations

- La Porte ISD will continue to support special education students through the implementation of student IEP's and following La Porte ISD procedures and TEA guidelines.
- More resources can be found at: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/covid-19-support-special-education-0>

Common Areas and Flexible Learning Areas

Restrooms

- Visual and/or verbal reminders will be provided regarding maximum restroom capacity.
- Students must wash hands before leaving the restroom.
- Visual reminders for proper handwashing will be provided.
- Increased disinfecting of the restrooms will occur throughout the school day.



La Porte Independent School District

Cafeteria: Breakfast/Lunch

Students may have meals in the cafeteria and other areas to reinforce social distancing.

- Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines.
- Meals will be pre-packaged to ensure ease of pick up and transport to eating location.
- Signage and staff will reinforce social distancing and traffic patterns in the cafeteria.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and exits of the cafeteria.

Library

- Visual reminders will be posted and furniture rearranged to help students maintain social distancing while in the library.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and exits of the library.
- High touch surfaces (e.g. table tops, chairs, door handles) will be disinfected regularly.
- Occupancy will be limited.

Transitions

- When transitioning between classes, students will be instructed to travel hallways as far to the right as possible.
- Verbal and/or visual reminders will be provided to help students maintain social distancing and adhere to established campus traffic flow in hallways.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transition periods to reduce high touch areas.



La Porte Independent School District

Arrival

- Parents will not be permitted to walk students inside the school building.
- Separate entrances will be designated for different groups of students (e.g. car riders, bus riders).

Dismissal

- Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups to maintain social distancing.

Outdoor & Off-Campus Student Activities

- Student participation in academic contests (robotics, UIL, etc.) will only be attended if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g. host site, La Porte ISD, TEA, UIL).
- Special Education Community-Based Vocational Instruction (CBVI) guidance will be followed to ensure these learning environments are available to students per ARD/IEP recommendations.

On-Campus Activities

- Any schoolwide events that are approved to be held on campus will adhere to social distancing requirements outlined by La Porte ISD, TEA, and UIL. (e.g. grade-level pep rallies, assemblies, performances).
- Schoolwide events will occur virtually and/or be live streamed when possible.
- To limit larger gatherings, campus club meetings should be held virtually when possible. If meeting in person is required, groups should adhere to social distancing and utilize larger meeting spaces or multiple meeting opportunities.



La Porte Independent School District

Extra-Curricular Programming

Athletics

- Practices and competitions will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in gym areas and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Locker room space will be utilized to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Bus travel will follow transportation guidelines provided by La Porte ISD and TEA.
- Spectator attendance at games and contests may be limited based on La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL guidelines. Ticketing for events may be utilized to control capacity of facilities.
- Spectator seats may be marked and/or configured in a way to encourage social distancing.
- Concessions may be limited to encourage social distancing and to follow health and safety guidelines.
- Booster clubs are encouraged to meet virtually to minimize outside exposure to campuses.

Fine Arts

- Large group practice sessions, sectionals and rehearsals will adhere to social distancing guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g. La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL).
- Private lesson instructors will not be allowed to teach on campus facilities until further guidance is provided by an authorized entity.
- Private lessons may continue to be conducted virtually if agreed upon between individual families and the lesson teacher. All district guidelines and pricing will continue to be followed.
- Off-campus fine arts performances will only be conducted if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g. La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL).



La Porte Independent School District

- Concerts/performances may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g. La Porte ISD, TEA, UIL), including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts.
- All fine arts performances will be streamed online when possible.
- Booster clubs are encouraged to meet virtually to minimize outside exposure to campuses.

Transportation

Special Education students will be contacted for arrangements.

It is highly recommended that parents/guardians bring students to school. Though we know this may not be possible, we will have limited regular education seats (depending on the bus, 16-26 available seats per bus.)

Requirements or changes for students to ride the bus:

Parents must sign up for transportation. La Porte ISD will offer registration for this later in July.

- Parents must screen their children for COVID-19 before allowing them to ride.
- Students must wear a face covering.
- Student will sit alone in a single seat; family members will sit together.
- Students must stay in their seat during the route.
- Prekindergarten students will ride on an elementary bus when needed.
- Student stops will be adjusted (relocated) to limit the number of stops. (This is due to the double routes that will be required.)

Students that become sick at school will not be permitted to ride the bus home.

Once the school year begins, it will take a week to add a new rider to a route.