



STISD Phased-In Return to School Plan Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will my child be able to continue participating in virtual instruction for the second quarter?

Absolutely. STISD is offering students and parents the opportunity to choose which instructional setting works best for them. There will be two instructional settings available for the two middle schools – virtual instruction and on-campus instruction - and three instructional settings available to students within the four high schools – virtual instruction, blended instruction and on-campus instruction.

2. How many students will participate in face-to-face learning for the second quarter?

At this time many parents are still in the process of making the decision about which instructional method they would like for their child to participate in for the second quarter of the year, so we do not yet have exact numbers of students expected back for the second quarter. When parents were asked to select a preference, the majority of parents selected a continuation of virtual for their child/ren, but we did have some parents who did opt for blended or fully on-campus instruction.

3. What is the schedule for blended learning?

At this time, the STISD middle schools will not be providing a blended option; however, the STISD high schools will provide a blended instruction option for families, which will encompass a combination of on-campus instruction (traditional) and virtual instruction (at home). The blended instruction plan will differ by campus. All students who opt for blended instruction will come to campus on select days during the week (according to the campus guidelines and schedule) and will participate in virtual instruction on all other days. Students are required to stay on campus for the entire school day (from 9:30 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.) on the days on which they report for on-campus instruction. The following are the plans for the campuses:

Campus	Model Plan
Health Professions	The blended model at Health Professions will be available only to seniors who need to go out to the clinical sites for hours to achieve certifications. All other students will need to opt for full-time on-campus instruction or virtual learning from home.
Medical Professions	Students participating in the blended model at Medical Professions are required to attend classes on campus for a full school day (9:30 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.) on the day they are scheduled for a health science course.



Campus	Model Plan
Science Academy	Students participating in the blended model at Science Academy will attend classes on campus one full instructional day per week according to the following schedule: Monday – Freshmen with last names A-L Tuesday – Freshmen with last names M-Z Wednesday – Sophomores Thursday – Juniors Friday- Seniors. These students will participate in Virtual Instruction on all other days.
World Scholars	The blended learning option at World Scholars will only be available to 11th and 12th grade students who are participating in product-based Dual Enrollment and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. If students commit to this option, they will attend classes on campus on the days when they have a product-based course (i.e. Art Appreciation, IB Film, etc.) for a maximum of two days per week. Students will be required to attend classes on campus for the full school day (9:30 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.).

4. For on-campus instruction, how many students will be in each classroom?

Depending upon the size of the classroom, classrooms are set up to accommodate 10-15 students, with desks safely distanced and desk shields set up for additional protection.

5. Where can I find the bus schedule?

Bus schedules were e-mailed out to all parents who had indicated they were interested in their child participating in on-campus instruction. If you did not receive the e-mail, you can reach out to your campus or campus transportation coordinator at the contact information below to receive a copy:

- Edinburg: Rudy Hernandez at (956) 318-8523 or (956) 564-3627
- Mercedes: Norma Basaldua at (956) 514-4240 or (956) 376-3415
- Rising Scholars Academy (San Benito): Eddie Guerra at (956) 532-1480
- Medical Professions (Olmiteo): Rick Ansiso at (956) 494-4986
- STISD Transportation Coordinator: Elva Villarreal at (956) 514-4241 or elva.villarreal@stisd.net

6. Where can I find information about the safety precautions and protocols in place to protect the district community?

The district’s Flexible Learning Initiative: Roadmap to a safe return (Safe Return to Work and School Plan) details the practices, procedures and precautions we have in place to better ensure health and safety of those within our community. This document is a working document, and we will continue to adapt our plan, as needed, to reflect changing guidelines, recommendations and best practices. You can access the most up-to-date version of our plan through the COVID-19 page on our district website. Also available on that page is our Phased-In Return to School plan.

7. Will students be able to use their lockers?

Students will not be able to use their lockers.

8. What personal items can my child bring to school?

Students are allowed to bring backpacks to school. They are also encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle, as traditional water fountains are disconnected, but our campuses do have places where water bottles can be refilled throughout the day. Students must bring their campus-issued device, if provided one. If student was not issued a device, they are encouraged to bring their personal device to campus.



9. What schedule will students who participate in on-campus or blended instruction follow?

Beginning Oct. 5, the following On Campus/Remote Schedule will be followed for middle schools and high schools and for all three instructional settings – Virtual Instruction, On-Campus (Traditional) and Blended.

- The schedule reflects the regular campus model schedule, but with modifications that meet the flexibility needs of students working remotely. Students will continue to follow STISD’s A/B calendar.
- Individual campuses may have alternative lunch schedules, which could slightly alter the afternoon class schedules, but the beginning and ending times of the school day will remain the same. Campuses will share schedules with their students, parents and faculty/staff, if they differ from this schedule.

Time	Section
8:00 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.	Student Support
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Period 1
10:40 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.	Period 2
11:40 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Lunch A/Independent Study
12:20 p.m. - 12:55 p.m.	Lunch B/Independent Study
12:55 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.	Period 3
2:05 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Period 4
3:15 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.	Student Support

10. What are the plans for lunch?

Campuses have flexibility in how they handle lunch to better ensure their ability to safely accommodate the number of students they receive for on-campus instruction. To allow for students to take a break from the classroom setting and have an opportunity to stretch and move around, campuses have made arrangements to use their cafeterias or other large venues for meal times. Campuses have plans in place to stagger lunch periods, if needed, to safely accommodate larger numbers of students participating; however, if numbers remain small for a particular campus, there may not be a need for staggered lunch periods, and schedules will be adjusted accordingly. At this time, all students will receive free meals, and this will continue through the month of December.

In January, the district will go back to the National School Lunch Program, which means meals will only be available to STISD students and will be subject to the regular prices charged for meals for the 2020-2021 school year; they will not be available to non-STISD students within the local community. Free and reduced-price meal status will be taken into account. Students will be able to pay by scanning their student ID cards, and to facilitate contactless payment, parents are encouraged to put funds into their food services account through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.


11. Will I be able to opt for on-campus instruction for my child after the second quarter begins (after Oct. 13), if I choose to start the second quarter virtually?

No. The instructional method/setting is a grading period commitment. Students and parents will not be able to opt to participate in on-campus instruction after Oct. 13. Campuses will need the final instructional setting selection for the second quarter by Wednesday, Oct. 7.

12. What if my child is participating in on-campus instruction and has close contact with someone with COVID-19, or experiences the symptoms of COVID-19? Will my child be able to participate in virtual classes to avoid missing so many classes?

Yes. Attendance can be fulfilled virtually and in-person. Students should not report to the bus stop or campus





if exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have had close contact with someone test-confirmed with COVID-19. In this case, they can log into their classes online and still receive attendance credit.

13. As a parent/guardian, what can I do to support the safety of my child and the district community?

A crucial component of our safety plans is the self-screening that students and parents are doing at home. Parents should screen their children every morning before reporting to the bus stop or campus and determine if the child has a fever or any other symptoms of COVID-19. If a child has any symptoms of COVID-19, the parent should not send the child to school or drop them off at the bus stop. Please keep your child home, if sick, and notify the campus. Similarly, if a child has had close contact with someone test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the student should stay home for the 14-day incubation period. Please also read through the Flexible Learning Initiative: Roadmap to a safe return and familiarize yourself and your child with the precautions and procedures in place. Being knowledgeable about these procedures and following them closely will help promote the health and safety of all.

14. What will on-campus instruction look like? Will my child continue to participate in virtual learning while in the classroom?

On-campus instruction is going to look more like the traditional face-to-face instruction your child is accustomed to; however, there will be processes and guidelines in place to keep students and faculty/staff safe distances from each other and facilitate as safe a learning and teaching environment as possible. On-campus instruction will not be an extension of virtual learning at school.

15. What are the plans for extracurricular activities moving forward?

These plans are still in development, and campuses will provide additional information moving forward.