

PROCESS FOR REQUIRING INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS TO RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

For some students distance learning is not as effective as in-person learning. To support these students, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) published guidance allowing districts to require individual students to return to in-person learning. Specifically, **TEA's criteria allows school districts to require students to return to in-person learning if that student (1) has a class average of 70 or below, and/or (2) has three or more unexcused absences in a grading period.**

Because a student's poor academic performance and/or low attendance creates a significant risk of severe learning loss, SBISD will implement TEA's guidance allowing SBISD to require individual students to return to in-person learning.

This impacts the following students:

1. Students currently on an Academic Support Plan or an Attendance Intervention Plan, with inadequate progress. Principals will consider these students to be required to return to in-person learning on January 5, 2021.
2. Students who have a class average of 70 or below and/or who have three or more unexcused absences on their second nine-week report card. Principals will contact these students' parent/guardian and can require their return to in-person learning on or around January 8, 2021.
3. Beginning the third nine-weeks, principals will use student attendance and/or academic performance of each progress report and/or report card cycle to determine if students are required to return to in-person learning.

Before a student is required to return to in-person learning, the campus must follow the below process:

1. Principal monitors progress report and report card for attendance and grades.
2. Principal notifies individual student's parent/guardian of academic and/or attendance concern.
3. Principal evaluates student's progress report and report card to determine if the student meets TEA's criteria be required to return to in-person learning.*
4. Principal informs parent/guardian of principal's decision in writing. Absent parent/guardian consent, at no point should the student be required to return to in-person learning less than 2 weeks from the parent/guardian receiving the principal's decision.
5. If a student is required to return to in-person learning, the principal will inform the parent/guardian of the Medical Exemption Appeal Process.

Medical Exemption Appeal Process: Parents/guardians wanting to appeal the Principal's decision must submit the provided Medical Exemption Form to the Principal within **three (3) business days** from receipt of the Principal's written decision. The Principal shall assemble a committee of three (3) staff members to meet with the parent/guardian to discuss the basis for the appeal and to review the Medical Exemption Form. The committee will only consider medical exemptions. The committee's decision is final and cannot be further appealed.

6. Parents/guardians may request a "transition meeting" to discuss the student's return to in-person learning. If a parent/guardian requests a transition meeting, the campus will schedule the meeting with no less than three (3) business days' notice, and must allow the student to continue to learn remotely until the meeting has been held. The transition meeting will *not* change the Principal's requirement for the student to return to in-person learning.

* For students served in special education: If the committee of three (3) staff members determines the special education student meets the criteria for a medical exemption, an ARD committee will convene to determine additional supports that are needed to ensure the success of the student.