

March 5, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you well. In case you missed it, Gov. Abbott this week issued an executive order lifting statewide COVID-19 mandates while stressing that it was *not* a call for us to “abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year.” The [Texas Education Agency](#) subsequently affirmed in its guidance to schools that “the virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and school system leaders should do everything feasible to keep students, teachers, staff, and our communities safe,” including “practices to prevent the virus from entering the school,” such as wearing a mask over their nose and mouth, as the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) recommends and health officials continue to urge.

We want to assure parents that our commitment to the health and safety of students, staff, and their families remains our top priority, and all of YES Prep’s COVID-19 prevention measures, including the use of masks, follow CDC and state guidelines and will remain in place at all of our schools.

Thank you for reading this Family Update in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about SAT School Day, student lottery notifications for new students, re-enrollment for current students, Quarter 4 learning program selection survey, new Family Workshops available, and more.

Important Dates Reminder

- **Fri. March 5** – Student Lottery Notifications
- **Mon. March 8** - Quarter 4 Program Selection Survey opens (**Closes March 26**)
- **Mon. March 15-19** – Spring Break
- **Wed. March 24** – SAT School Day for 11th graders
- **Fri. March 26** – Deadline to complete re-enrollment form for current students
- **Wed. March 31** – Deadline for families to accept lottery seats

SAT School Day Changed to March 24

Due to Winter Storm Uri, testing materials were delayed, and we made the decision to move the SAT test to Wednesday, March 24. If you are the parent of an 11th grader, regardless of whether they are virtual or in-person, please ensure that your child is at school and ready to take the test on March 24. We will continue to follow and prioritize health and safety guidelines at our schools to ensure your student has the best and safest testing environment. If you have any questions, please reach out to your campus Director of College Counseling.

The SAT is still heavily used in the college admissions and financial aid process as a measure of college readiness. A strong and safe SAT School Day administration on our own campuses gives our students the best chance for success on their future college applications.

YES Prep Devices for Students

This is a reminder that if you do not have a YES Prep issued device for your student, please contact your campus as soon as possible to be issued one for instruction and assessment, including STAAR testing.

Lottery Notifications for Next School Year

Lottery notifications for the 2021-2022 school year will be sent out today, March 5. If you applied for siblings of your current YES Prep student(s), you can also check their status and accept or decline their offers by logging in to your SchoolMint account at yesprep.schoolmint.net. Act fast and accept your seat by March 31



as space is limited! Haven't applied yet? YES Prep is still accepting applications, visit yesprep.org/enroll to apply for the 2021-21 school year. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at lottery@yesprep.org.

Complete Re-enrollment Form for Current Students by March 26

We are truly grateful that you have entrusted us with the education of your child(ren). As we look ahead to the '21-'22 school year, we hope that you will once again choose YES Prep Public Schools. We would kindly ask that you complete a [brief re-enrollment form](#) for each of your children to share your intent to return next school year so we can effectively plan to serve the students, families and communities of YES Prep. You can access the form by [logging in to your Skyward Family Access center account](#) and clicking the Re-enrollment form tile. Please submit the form no later than March 26. [Click HERE for Skyward Family Access Center link](#)

Quarter 4 Program Selection Survey – Available March 8-26

We look forward to hearing from you on your selection of online or in-person learning for next quarter. Reminder, if you wish to have your student in the same learning program for Q4, you do not need to complete the survey again. We recognize this year has been incredibly difficult for many families, and there are many factors to consider when deciding between in-person and online learning. We have a full-scale effort to welcome students for in person learning with health and safety measures to do everything we can to help keep the virus out of our schools, including:

- Required use of facial coverings over mouth and nose
- Social distancing whenever possible
- Health and temperature checks for students and staff before getting onto campus each day
- Regular hand washing while on campus
- Safety protocols on school buses
- In addition to the standard daily cleaning protocols, schools undergo intense disinfecting
- Strict adherence to CDC and state guidelines for isolating at home after a student or staffer is infected or exposed to someone infected
- Rapid testing for any staff member or any student, as approved by families, who may experience a known COVID symptom
- Anyone showing symptoms is immediately separated, and areas used by that person are cleaned and disinfected
- No non-essential visitors allowed on any campus

For students who remain online, attendance and active engagement in every class, every day will directly impact their academic success, especially as we approach STAAR testing and other critical milestones this school year. You can track your child's progress online by monitoring grades and attendance in Skyward and viewing daily assignments and activities on Teams.

Online or in person, we remain firmly committed to the rigorous education and success of your children on their path to college and beyond. Many families have reported—since their students returned in person—that they were better able to concentrate, with fewer distractions and opportunities to leave the class or miss assignments. We are here to help in any way we can. If you have a question, concern or an urgent need for your family, we want to know. Please inform your campus leadership, who are eager to help. [Click HERE for Skyward Family Access Center link](#)

Family Workshops

Make sure to join us this coming **Tuesday, March 9**, from 5 to 6 p.m., for our Family Workshop series titled “The Teen Brain: A Neurodevelopmental Guide for Parents and Families” with Dr. Crystal Collier. Dr. Collier is a therapist and educator who has been working with adolescents and adults suffering from mental illness, behavioral problems and substance use disorders since 1991. This informative series will be offered on

Microsoft Teams live and will cover stress (March 9), substance abuse (March 23), technology (March 30) and behavior modification (April 6). To learn more about the sessions and the speaker, click [here](#).

Please take a moment to register using [this link](#) so we can tailor the session to best meet the needs of those in attendance. Dr. Collier will also be using the attendance list from each session to raffle off a copy of her new book, the Neurowhereabouts Guide, a neurodevelopmental guide for parents and families who want to prevent youth high risk behavior.

School Report Cards (SRCs) and Federal Report Cards (FRCs)

The Texas Education Agency has published **2019-2020 School Report Cards** for each YES Prep school and **2019-2020 Federal Report Cards** for each YES Prep school and the district. The Texas Education Agency oversees public education in the state of Texas and requires that school districts and charter schools share information about your child's school in accordance with Texas Education Code §61.102 and Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) Title I, Section 1111(h)(2). The report cards include accountability ratings, student demographic and achievement data, and financial information, to give families and the general public a broad view of the district and each school's performance.

You can access the report cards using any of the following methods:

1. Visit the **YES Prep website**:
 - a. [District website](#) link (under Performance & Accountability)
 - b. [Schools website](#) link (click on your child's school, click on For Parents, and click on Compliance Notices)
2. Visit the **Texas Education Agency's website**:
 - a. [School Report Cards](#) link
 - b. [Federal Report Cards](#) link
3. **Hard copies** are available at the district office and each school's front office.
4. Appropriate **translations (written or oral)** are available upon request.

If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Fields, Compliance Coordinator, at elizabeth.fields@yesprep.org or (713) 924-0478.

Did You Know?

Charters add to the public school system; they don't take from it! As charter school enrollment increases, the traditional districts where charters are located have *more* total revenue and spend *more* per student. Charters benefit all students! [Learn more about the financial impact of charters on ISDs here.](#)

YES Prep's 23rd Birthday!

This Sunday is YES Prep's 23rd birthday! Twenty-three years ago, YES Prep Public Schools received its charter from the state of Texas. Back then there was 1 school, 400 students, and about 50 teammates. Now, there are 21 schools, 15,462 students, 1,670 staff, and over 7,000 alumni! But the mission is still the same, and it's every bit as inspiring as it was then. Happy birthday, YES Prep!

As always, thank you families for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children and for your support and partnership as we continue our commitment to prioritize safety while also working tirelessly to provide the highest quality instruction, online and in-person. Our next Family Update will be until Friday, March 12.

Thank you