



STISD Phased-In Return to School Plan

TEA approved STISD’s offering of solely virtual instruction district wide for the initial four weeks of the 2020-2021 school year. With board approval, STISD submitted an application for a waiver from TEA for four additional weeks of limitations on in-person instruction as our region continued to battle COVID-19.

During the second four-week transition period (from Sept. 15-Oct. 8), TEA required that we offer some on-campus instruction each day. As students and faculty and staff were transitioning back to a “new normal” and needed an opportunity to adjust to instruction and school life with different processes and procedures, the district decided to transition students gradually throughout this time period.

Below are the district’s current plans for a phased-in return to schools.

Please note: the timeline and instructional methods offered could shift or change depending upon the public health situation and circumstances within the district and region.

Phased-In Plan for Return to Schools	
Teachers Voluntarily Report to Classrooms	Aug. 17 - All students district wide participate in virtual instruction from home
Extended 4-Weeks of Virtual Learning Begins and District Begins Bringing Back Students in a Phased-in Approach While Transitioning	Sept. 15
Select Groups Report for Virtual Learning at School	Sept. 15 - The district will bring back a small percentage of students who could benefit most from an on-campus “learning space” for these students to continue their virtual instruction
District Requests Parent Selection for Instructional Setting for Second Quarter (Oct. 13- Dec. 17)	Sept. 14 - Sept. 18
All Teachers Report Back to Campus	Sept. 28





Round Two of Select Student Groups Report for In-Person Instruction; Students Currently Participating in On-Campus Learning Space Transition into the Classrooms	Oct. 1
Students whose parents opted for On-Campus Instruction (full-time in-person instruction) for Quarter Two Report to Campus for In-Person Instruction (early date)	Oct. 5 ***Families who opted for face-to-face instruction for the Second Quarter can have their children return to campus on this date or can wait until Oct. 13 for the students to return for in-person instruction, if they so choose.
Students whose parents opted for On-Campus Instruction (full-time in-person instruction) or Blended Instruction (combination of in-person and virtual instruction from home) for Quarter Two Report to Campus for In-Person Instruction Please Note: Blended Instruction will only be available for students at the four STISD high schools at this time. The middle schools will not offer a blended option for the second quarter.	Oct. 13 (Quarter Two Begins) - With the exception of beginning on-campus instruction for the end of the first quarter, parents and students are asked to commit to an instructional method for an entire grading period. Students/parents will be able to transition between instructional delivery methods, if they so choose, but will not be able to do so until the end of a grading period to take effect at the beginning of the next grading period. Parents will be asked to commit to one instructional method for the duration of the second quarter.
District Requests Parent Selection for Instructional Setting for Third Quarter (Jan. 5-March 11)	Nov. 19-Dec. 1
Students whose parents opted for On-Campus Instruction (full-time in-person instruction) or Blended Instruction (combination of in-person and virtual instruction from home) for Quarter Three Report to Campus for In-Person Instruction	Jan. 5 (Quarter Three Begins) - With the exception of beginning on-campus instruction for the end of the first quarter, parents and students are asked to commit to an instructional method for an entire grading period. Students/parents will be able to transition between instructional delivery methods, if they so choose, but will not be able to do so until the end of a grading period to take effect at the beginning of the next grading period. Parents will be asked to commit to one instructional method for the duration of the third quarter.





Students whose parents opted for On-Campus Instruction (full-time in-person instruction) or Blended Instruction (combination of in-person and virtual instruction from home) for Quarter Four Report to Campus for In-Person Instruction

March 22 (Quarter 4 Begins)

- With the exception of beginning on-campus instruction for the end of the first quarter, parents and students are asked to commit to an instructional method for an entire grading period. Parents are asked to commit to one instructional method for the duration of the fourth quarter.

Instructions for Changing your Instructional Setting Selection for Quarter Four (March 22- May 26):

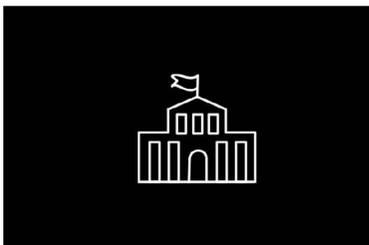
If you would like to change the instructional method you selected for your child to participate in for the **Fourth** Quarter, please contact your child's campus directly. This is a commitment for the entire **fourth quarter grading** period.

Instructional Settings

For the **fourth** quarter (**March 22- May 26**), STISD high schools will continue offering three different instructional settings for students to choose from: Virtual Instruction from home, On-Campus Instruction at school, and Blended Instruction (combination of virtual at home and face-to-face instruction at school).

STISD middle schools will only offer two instructional settings: On-Campus Instruction at school or Virtual Instruction from home. There will be no blended option for the middle schools at this time.

On-Campus Instruction



Blended Instruction



Virtual Instruction at Home



On-Campus Instruction

- Students will participate in lessons in a format more similar to traditional instruction. Students will be taught in classrooms on campus by their teachers, alongside other students who have opted for in-person instruction.
- Students will be required to follow all guidelines and safety precautions as detailed within the Flexible Learning Initiative: Roadmap to a safe return document located within the [COVID-19 page](#) on the district website.
- See the [Schedule for Instruction section](#) below for additional details regarding the schedule.

Virtual Instruction

- Students will continue to complete their coursework virtually from home like they have been since the beginning of the school year.
- Teachers will continue to lead their students in their virtual instruction.
- See the [Schedule for Instruction section](#) below for additional details regarding the schedule.

Blended Instruction (combination of on-campus and virtual from home)

Blended Instruction will only be available for students at the four STISD high schools at this time. The middle schools will not offer a blended option for the **fourth** quarter.

Campus	Blended Model
Health Professions Mercedes	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 Olmito	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.
Science Academy Mercedes	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 Edinburg	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 three 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.).



Please note that, if a student who selects On-Campus Instruction does not report to the school for instruction within the first three days of the **fourth** quarter, it will be assumed that the student has opted to continue with the Virtual Instruction method and the student’s selection will be such throughout the duration of the grading period.

Schedule for Instruction:

- STISD began using the below schedule for instruction on Oct. 5. This schedule will continue for all three instructional settings - Virtual, Traditional and Blended - throughout the **fourth** quarter of the year.
- 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 are different from the schedule presented in this guide.

On Campus/Remote Schedule (Grades 7-12)

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

