

April 1, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. A reminder that next week (Tuesday, April 6) marks the beginning of Quarter 4 for students. For all students, we're excited to continue seeing you online or in person over the next few weeks. This last quarter has still, many milestones and events in store! For families who chose in-person learning, please refer to the details below to ensure your student is ready for in-person learning next week.

We again want to stress our continued commitment to health and safety at YES Prep and reiterate that **all of our YES Prep COVID-19 prevention measures, including the use of masks, and social-distancing protocols 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 in-person learning readiness for Quarter 4, vaccine opportunity for YES Prep students and families ages 18 years or older, STAAR testing, AP testing, graduation, and more.

### Important Dates Reminder

- **Fri. April 2** – Spring Holiday for students; No school
- **Mon. April 5** – Student Holiday; No school
- **April 6 - June 10** – Quarter 4

### In-Person Learning Readiness for Quarter 4

As a reminder, Quarter 4 begins next Tuesday, April 6. For families who selected in-person learning, we ask that you please review details about the [Daily Health Check](#) and are familiar with [the In-Person Readiness Checklist](#) to ensure a smooth and successful transition onto campuses next week. For this and other information, please visit our [In Person at School Learning webpage](#).

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. 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.

### Vaccines Available for YES Prep Families and Students ages 18 and over

We are very excited to announce that through a partnership with HEB Pharmacy, YES Prep will be offering the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination at many of our campuses in April! This is a FREE one-dose vaccine and is available to all YES Prep staff, students, and families who are 18 years of age or older. If you are interested in signing up for an opportunity to get a vaccine please complete this brief [survey](#).

### YES Prep School Year 2021-22 Calendar Now Available

The YES Prep 21-22 calendar is now available on the [YES Prep Website](#). Here are some highlights of the calendar:



- The first day of school for students is August 16, 2021.
- The last day of school for students is June 2, 2021.
- There will be 176 total instructional days in the 2021-22 school year.
- The Academic Calendar aims to support students and families.
  - YES Prep will have over 80,000 instructional minutes in the 2021-22 school year, which is approximately 4,000 more minutes than in years past. These additional minutes will support students to close learning gaps created by COVID.
  - Staff Professional Development (including 5 Early Dismissal days) has been placed adjacent to existing holiday weekends as much as possible to help families manage this time off for students.
  - YES Prep non-partnership campuses will have consistent start and end times every school day (excluding the five early dismissal days on the calendar).

*We will create partnership specific calendars for YES Prep Northbrook MS/HS, YES Prep Hoffman, and YES Prep Eisenhower by June 1.*

### YES Prep Graduation Plans

Families, in less than two months, we will be celebrating our senior class at graduation. YES Prep Public Schools is excited for the Senior Class of 2021 to walk across the stage this year to graduate.

YES Prep is planning for Commencement to occur June 4-6, 2021, at the Bayou City Event Center (9401 Knight Road, Houston, TX 77045).

Time	Date		
	Friday, June 4, 2021	Saturday, June 5, 2021	Sunday, June 6, 2021
9 a.m.	Eisenhower	Southeast	Brays Oaks
noon	White Oak	North Forest	East End
3 p.m.	Northside	West	Southwest
6 p.m.	Fifth Ward	North Central	Gulfton

*YES Prep Northbrook High School will join Northbrook HS's graduation ceremony. This will be held Saturday, May 22, 2021. Please refer to information from YPNHS and SBISD on the details of the Northbrook graduation.*

YES Prep's number one priority is the safety of our students, staff, and families. To hold an in-person ceremony, we have developed a comprehensive safety plan so you can understand how we plan to keep you and your family safe. We will share the plan's full details with students, staff, and guests leading up to the event.

One of the primary changes to holding ceremonies this year is the event will have a limited capacity. To plan for capacity limits, the ceremonies will be ticketed, with assigned seating. At this time, we are planning for **each graduate to have a ticket for 2 guests.**

We are asking no one travel to attend graduation. Travel between communities is still considered a risk by the Centers for Disease Control. With the limited number of guest seats and our ask for out-of-town guests not to travel, **YES Prep will be providing a Live-Stream of the Ceremony.**

If you need to request time off work to attend the graduation ceremony, know that on-site arrival at the ceremony will begin one hour before the ceremony's scheduled start time. All ceremonies will last for an hour and a half.

**All plans are contingent on current health conditions. Our current plans will be evaluated 30-days before the event, on or around May 7. We will communicate if there are any changes based on health conditions in our communities.**

Seniors will receive information about the ceremony's ticketing process from their Director of College Counseling after May 7.

Families and seniors, you can also check [yesprep.org/commencement](https://www.yesprep.org/commencement). In the coming weeks, we will be adding answers to frequently asked questions and providing more information about the safety plan.

## STAAR Update

STAAR is an important data point for our students, campuses, and district. Successful performance on STAAR EOCs is also required by law for high school graduation. To provide students the greatest opportunity for success and to protect student and staff health, a plan has been developed to create an effective, compliant, and safe testing environment for all students, outlined [on this site](#).

Parents of students in all grade levels should review the information [on this site](#). Even on days where your student may not have a STAAR test, a STAAR test in another grade level may impact your student's schedule.

*Next week we will share more information about available transportation and practice opportunities.*

## AP Testing

AP Testing will occur in May and early June. The Advanced Placement program provides students an opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school.

Important notes:

- Exam format: YES Prep follows all AP testing regulations and policies. Some AP exams will be given on computers and some will be given on paper.
- Cost: YES Prep is pleased to cover exam fees for all students this year.
- Preparation: We will be creating two opportunities for students to review, called AP Summits. AP Summit dates will be on May 8 and May 15. Students will begin registration for AP Summit on April 16. This event will be virtual and hosted on Microsoft Teams.

*Next week we will share the link to our new 2021 AP informational page on our [yesprep.org](https://www.yesprep.org) site. You will also be receiving more detailed communication directly from your campus in the upcoming weeks.*

## Complete Re-enrollment Form for Current Students

In case you missed it, please secure your student's 2021-2022 enrollment by completing a [brief re-enrollment form](#) in your Skyward Family Access center. Student schedules will be created based on your response. 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 as soon as possible.** [Click HERE for Skyward Family Access Center link](#)

## Family Workshop Series: The Teen Brain – A Guide for Families

You are invited to join us for our virtual Family Workshop Series titled “The Teen Brain: A Neurodevelopmental Guide for Parents and Families” on Tuesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. The final session, “The Brain and Behavior Modification” will take place on **Tuesday, April 6**, via Microsoft Teams. To learn more about this topic, view recordings of the previous sessions, and register, please [click here](#).

**RAFFLE:** *Dr. Collier will use the session attendance lists from all four sessions 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. The book is available in English and Spanish.*



## Reminder to Accept your Child's Seat for Next School Year

Lottery notifications for the 2021-2022 school year were sent out last Friday, 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](https://yesprep.schoolmint.net). Act fast and accept your seat by **TODAY** as space is limited!

Haven't applied yet or want to refer a family? YES Prep is still accepting applications, visit [yesprep.org/enroll](https://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](mailto:lottery@yesprep.org).

## Did You Know?

Charters add to the public school system; they don't take from it! Independent research proves that as Texas public charter school enrollment increases, traditional districts spend MORE per student, including on instruction. [Learn more about the financial impact of charters on ISDs here.](#)

As always, thank you to our families for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children. Thank you 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, April 9.**

Thank you