



Educate. *Inspire*. **EMPOWER!**

Gregory-Portland ISD

Back to School 2021-22

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

www.g-pisd.org

PLEASE NOTE: The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

Gregory-Portland ISD Vision



Educate
Inspire
EMPOWER!

Gregory-Portland ISD Mission

The mission of G-PISD is to **educate**, **inspire**, and **empower** our students to succeed in life and become the next generation of leaders.

Gregory-Portland ISD Beliefs

In G-PISD, we believe our ...

STUDENTS are leaders and critical thinkers who embrace diversity and pursue excellence in all endeavors.

PARENTS / FAMILIES are true partners, have a voice, and have high expectations.

FACULTY AND STAFF build inclusive relationships and maximize student success with integrity, compassion, and talent.

PRINCIPALS AND CAMPUS LEADERSHIP are courageous leaders who show grace, empower others, embrace diversity, and cultivate G-P pride.

SUPERINTENDENT AND CENTRAL OFFICE advance our vision with intention, collaboration, and purpose-driven leadership.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES are strategic, collaborative leaders who model good governance and empower and inspire others to serve the G-P community.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Introduction and Overview

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies for providing local education agencies with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on the elementary and secondary schools across the country.

This plan describes how Gregory-Portland ISD will provide for the safe return to school in August of 2021 as well as provide a continuity of services for all students in our schools. This document complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act, the ESSER II and III grant terms established by the U.S. Department of Education.

One requirement in creating this plan was to seek [stakeholder input](#) using a variety of methods including public meetings, informational emails, surveys, and needs assessments. After reviewing all of the information received through stakeholder input, top priorities were identified and the ESSER grants were written and submitted to the Texas Education Agency.

Gregory-Portland ISD will continue to review and revise this plan at least once every six months as required by the ARP Act.

WELCOME BACK WILDCATS!

Dear Wildcat Family,

Our team WELCOMES you to the 2021-2022 school year! We are EAGER to reunite with you and to educate, inspire, and empower you each day! YOU are the best students and staff in the STATE and NATION! We are on the move and are expanding our opportunities and excellence for our students!

Gregory-Portland ISD's Safe Return to School and Continuity of Instruction Plan provides details about our procedures and safety requirements, as well as our plan for in-person learning. Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors. We are also deeply committed to our district's mission to educate, inspire, and empower our students to succeed in life and become the next generation of leaders.

This guidebook is subject to change based on CDC guidance and executive orders. We are living in unprecedented times and must remain flexible. As guidelines and orders change from local, state and federal authorities, Gregory-Portland ISD will adjust, but rest assured, our focus will always remain on doing what is best for students and staff.

I look forward to seeing each of you as we embark together in 2021-22. We are grateful for your partnership in the education of our Wildcats!

Best regards for a successful 2021-2022 school year; I look forward to seeing you around the district!

Michelle M. Cavazos

Michelle M. Cavazos, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Safety Protocols

Protocols for Face Coverings

For the 2021-2022 school year, face coverings are optional at Gregory-Portland ISD. Students, staff, and visitors may wear face coverings if they choose, but they are not required while on campus or at school activities. The Gregory-Portland ISD Superintendent determined on May 19, 2021, in a [district update](#) was released that wearing masks would be optional after June 4, 2021 for students, parents, staff and community members on school property. Face coverings are highly encouraged for any individual who displays symptom of illness or may be at increased risk for complications from COVID-19.

Gregory-Portland ISD will continue to work with the San Patricio County Health Department and follow recommendations from this entity should health conditions change in our area.

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

Screening Protocols

- € Staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day. Staff must ensure they do not come to campus if they have symptoms causing suspicion that they are infected with COVID-19.
- € Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.
- € Visitors must follow all posted guidance to include self-screening of COVID-19 symptoms.
- € The list below details symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat

- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
- € Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Isolation Protocols

Students or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

- € When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment. As with all illnesses, students will be sent home if they have a fever of 100.0 or higher, are vomiting, or have diarrhea. Students will also be sent home if the nurse determines the symptoms may be from COVID-19. When available, BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing may be performed by G-PISD nurses. Testing will be conducted at the discretion of the nurse, **with parent permission**.
- € Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian. Mask shall be issued to the student if COVID-19 is suspected/confirmed.
- € Staff members suspected of being infected with COVID-19 will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- € Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) are determined by a medical professional to have the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - In the case of an individual who is symptomatic and is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when **all three** of the following criteria are met:
 - at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - In the case of an individual that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten days have passed since a positive test result.
 - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19

and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

- If the individual has symptoms diagnosed as COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>), or other site that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.
- G-PISD may request medical note in any situation where the above standards are not clearly met.

Students who are Close Contacts

- Students who have been identified by a county health department as having been in close with COVID-19 are recommended to stay at home for a 10-day period.
- Vaccinated individuals are not considered close contacts.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning, Disinfecting and Hand Sanitation

Daily Campus Cleaning

- € Each classroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily.
- € Restrooms and water fountains will be disinfected twice per day.

- € The cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- € Custodial and Transportation Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction. Appropriate supplies will be made available to classroom staff as needed.
- € Custodial staff will electrostatically disinfect classrooms, restrooms, the athletic facilities, weight room and all additional areas in the building on a rotating basis.

Disinfecting Expectations

- € Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- € Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- € Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in all classrooms, and in common areas throughout the campus.
- € Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- € Training will be conducted for all employees and students on effective hand-washing techniques. Posters will be used to remind and demonstrate appropriate hand-washing measures.

Additional Cleaning Measures for Covid-19 Positive Cases on Campus

- € Custodial staff will perform additional cleaning in areas of heavy use (classroom, restroom, workroom, etc.) for any individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 while at school.
- € Campuses will close off areas that are heavily used by individuals who are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 until the surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

Work and Learning Environments

Classroom Configuration

- € 3ft foot spacing between students will be implemented.
- € Teachers may request partitions for their classrooms.
- € When unable to meet 3ft spacing, partitions will be strategically placed in the elementary classrooms. Additionally, a partition will be made available for any individual requesting one, regardless of spacing or grade level.
- € Recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education service locations when possible and appropriate. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Increased spacing, partitions, etc. shall be implemented when necessary/requested.

Collaborative Work and Projects

- € Collaborative work and projects will be allowed.

General Classroom Supplies

- € Multiple locations of hand sanitizer, tissues, and trash cans will be available in several locations to limit student and staff movement.

Specialized Classrooms

- € There will be adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high touch materials or limit use of supplies of equipment to one group of students at a time.
- € Career and Technical Education classes will follow industry-based safety guidelines as appropriate to the equipment and course content.

Physical Education and Extracurricular Activity Protocols

- € Sanitizing supplies and access to handwashing will be provided.
- € Activities involving increased exhalation and sustained physical contact present an increased transmission risk.
- € Outdoor activities will be prioritized over indoor activities due to air circulation and decreased transmission rates.
- € Coaches/sponsors shall implement precautions wherever possible. These may include grouping structures, spacing and limiting the duration or nature of activities when in close contact in all parts of their activities.

Meeting Spaces

- € Face-to-face meetings will be allowed.

Transitions

- € Transitions and traffic patterns are determined by campus procedures. There are no requirements of social distancing during this time.

Arrival

- € Students may not be dropped off until the building is open.
- € There will be designated doors for entry at each campus. These may be based on arrival methods: bus riders, drop-off, student drivers, students with unique needs. Campus principals will communicate entry procedures.
- € Designated entry doors will be continuously monitored by staff to stop unauthorized access and to monitor for threats.
- € Parents may not accompany students beyond the security vestibule.

Dismissal

- € Sanitizer stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to

sanitize hands prior to exit.

Breakfast/Lunch

- € Cafeteria capacity and seating arrangements will be determined by campus policies.
- € Hand sanitizer stations will be available at entrances and exits of the cafeteria.
- € No outside food may be dropped off at the campus. Students must bring their lunch each day or eat in the cafeteria.
- € Water refill stations will be available at every campus.

Transportation

- € Buses will be disinfected daily.
- € Hand sanitizer will be provided on all buses.

Off-Campus Student Activities

- € Student participation in extracurricular contests (Athletics, UIL, etc...) will be allowed. Fans will also be permitted to attend these events with no limitations unless District, UIL, or TEA guidelines state otherwise.
- € All field trips require approval of the campus principal.

On Campus Activities

- € All school wide events (pep rallies, student assemblies, informational meetings, etc...) will be **evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Parents and community member attendance is currently not allowed, during instructional hours.** After hours, there are no current limitations unless District, UIL, or TEA guidelines state otherwise.
- € Concessions will be available. Appropriate food handling practices and regular disinfection will occur.

Visitors

During instructional hours, only necessary visits will be allowed. Most parent/teacher conferences during instruction hours will be held virtually. Food drop-off for students is prohibited.

All vendors/contractors must be listed on the G-PISD Vendor Access Log.

Continuity of Services

Teaching and Learning

2021-2022

Face-to-face learning will be the only mode of instruction offered in Gregory-Portland ISD for the 2021-2022 school year. Gregory-Portland ISD ended the 2020-2021 school year with over 90% of our students participating in in-person instruction on campus. It is in the best interest of our students to be in school. Assessment data shows deficiencies across the district in reading and math. Below are steps the district plans to implement this school year to help close achievement gaps in reading and math, as well as boost student achievement in all subjects through interactive technology devices.

Gregory-Portland ISD has developed the following plans to provide a road map for staying on track as we strive to mitigate learning loss for all students. This *Back-to-School Plan* will work in conjunction with district and campus improvement plans for this school year. The primary instructional goals for this school year will be to:

- € Create rigorous, engaging learning environments.
- € Create a culture of high expectations-every class, every day for all students.
- € Adhere to our guaranteed and viable district curriculum.
- € Provide high-impact tutoring for our most at-risk students.

INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION

- € **What I Need (WIN) Time** -Gregory-Portland ISD recognizes that remote instruction had a more intense impact on our younger students. Therefore, there will be a more intense focus on identifying time in the elementary master schedules to provide students daily opportunities for enrichment and interventions based on student needs.
- € **K-8 Reading & Math Interventionist** - Gregory-Portland ISD has added K-2 interventionists that has traditionally been 3rd-8th grade. The interventionists have extensive experience in reading and math instruction and join the districts

intervention team.

- € **High-Impact Tutoring** - Gregory-Portland ISD will provide high impact school tutoring for students in reading and math. Tutoring will begin in September 2021 and conclude in April 2022. Delivery will be by trained instructional staff in high impact tutoring strategies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- € **TEKS Resource System Reboot** - Gregory-Portland ISD will conduct extensive/ongoing training of all components of the TEKS Resource Curriculum. Training will be provided by district and campus administrative staff.
- € **Microsoft 365 Training** - Gregory-Portland ISD will continue to provide Microsoft 365 training to teachers. Although the district will not provide remote learning as an option for students, staff will continue to use the Microsoft tools to communicate with students and parents, as well as engage students in more robust learning opportunities through these digital tools.
- € **Kagan Professional Development** - Gregory-Portland ISD will continue to support Kagan cooperative learning strategies to all teachers. The goal of these instructional strategies is to boost student engagement and achievement.
- € **Reading Academies** - Gregory-Portland ISD will send over 50 elementary teachers/ administrators to the state required reading academies.

TECHNOLOGY

- € **Interactive TVs** - All classrooms in Gregory-Portland ISD will be equipped with state-of-the-art interactive flat screen T.V.s to increase productivity and student engagement in the classroom. These devices will be used to enhance collaboration and student discourse.
- € **Additional Chromebooks and Laptops** - Gregory-Portland ISD will continue to add Chromebooks to each campus so that all students in the district will have access to the latest technologies that help boost student achievement. Every student in Gregory-Portland ISD will be issued a device in August 2021 to utilize throughout the year.
- € **Tech Support** - Tech support is available for students/families by submitting a help desk ticket utilizing the following link [Help Desk Plus](#).

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Gregory-Portland ISD's Vision is to educate, inspire, and empower. The focus for our

SEL team for this school year is on resilience. Activities will be coordinated at all campuses throughout the school year that reinforce this focus.

- € **Character Strong/PurposeFull People Curriculum** - Gregory-Portland ISD will continue the use of the Character Strong/PurposeFull People curriculum to use for guidance lessons centered around the social and emotional health of students.
- € **Family Engagement** - The Gregory-Portland ISD curriculum and instruction department will publish a schedule of family engagement nights to share pertinent information with parents and families on health-related topics facing students today. These events will be offered throughout the school year.
- € **Social Workers** - Social Workers are trained mental health professionals who can assist with mental health concerns, behavioral concerns, positive behavioral support, academic, and classroom support, consultation with teachers, parents, and administrators as well as provide individual and group counseling/therapy. The district Social Workers provide resources and access to resources and services for families in the G-P ISD community.
- € **School Counselors** - The school counselors are available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional or mental health issues. School counselors provide individual and small group counseling as well as academic guidance and support. School counselors collaborate with teachers, parents and administrators to support student needs.
- € **Licensed Specialist of School Psychology** - Gregory-Portland ISD will provide our teachers additional support in meeting the social-emotional needs of students with the addition of a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP).

Parent Communication

- € **District Communication** - Parents are encouraged to actively stay informed with district updates. The district will utilize email, phone, and the “Remind” app as well as our up-to-date website. Public contents is also posted on social media such as Facebook (www.facebook.com/gpisdwildcats) and Twitter (@GPISD1).
- € **Campus Communication** - Teachers will primarily use the “Remind” app to communicate with students and parents. Please be sure your email address in Skyward is accurate and active.

Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Gregory-Portland ISD conducted consultation in the following ways:

- € Through surveys with stakeholders, including students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, and school staff.
- € Through surveys with civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.
- € By providing a public hearing on June 14, 2021, and all stakeholders were provided an opportunity to submit comments at communications@g-pisd.org.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

Gregory-Portland ISD has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- € The plan in English and Spanish and is posted at www.g-pisd.org;