



INTRODUCTION

The Galveston Independent School District places the safety and well-being of staff and students as a high priority. The 2021-2022 school year Returning to Learning plan outlines the operational and instructional protocols for the district. This plan is a living document which will be reviewed every six months until September 30, 2023. Stakeholder input and public comment will be gathered as part of the process for making adjustments to the plan.

2021 - 2022 RETURNING TO LEARNING TIMELINE - First Day for Students August 23, 2021

Monday, August 3 - Friday, August 6

New Teacher Academy

Monday, August 9

Veteran Teachers Return

Monday, August 23

First day of school on site for students

Friday, December 17

First semester ends

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Second semester begins

January 4 - 21, 2022

Six Month Plan Review

May 26, 2022

End of the 2021-2022 School Year

July 11 - 22, 2022

Six Month Plan Review

ON-SITE LEARNING PROTOCOLS

CDC Recommendations

- Students and staff are encouraged to wash hands often. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations.

Transportation

- Bus routes will be established to address efficiency and safety.
- Social distancing constitutes no more than three students per seat for elementary school and two students per seat for middle and high school. Siblings are encouraged to share a seat.
- When possible, the bus windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each route, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

Entry/Exit

- Schools have the authority and responsibility to limit access to the facilities and restrict visits in school to only those essential to school operations.
- Staggered arrivals and dismissals are encouraged and will be determined by campus principal and leadership.
- Schools will establish staggered, no-contact pick-up and drop-off times. Parents should remain in vehicles requiring students to get in and out of cars independently and preventing parents from walking students into the building.
- Drop off and pick-ups should be contactless whenever possible.
- Campus hours of operation will be strictly adhered to; leaving a child at an unattended location is prohibited.
- Families will be encouraged to assign one person who is not high risk to consistently pick-up and drop-off their student each day.
- Loitering at exit doors will not be allowed.
- Elementary campuses will communicate the week one process for escorting pre-K and kindergarten students.
- All campuses will communicate processes for drop-off and pick-up of students for any reasons (medication, doctor's appointments, illness, campus violations).
- Children will report to a specific location for entry and exit; each campus will communicate the entry/exit location for students. Staff will be provided the entry/exit by their principal.
- Visitors will be communicated with through contactless intercom. If necessary, visitors will enter the main doors and report to the reception desk for security check-in.
- During an emergency, the closest exit should be used.
- Schools will consider circumstances for students, staff, visitors with physical, behavioral or health challenges and work to accommodate any limitations. Decisions will be developmentally appropriate.
- Tailored solutions may be needed for each campus, classroom or school setting. Communication to address entry/exit protocols and solutions should be expected.
- The campus reserves the right to limit guests in the front office to maintain social distancing.

Health Survey – Temperature Checks

- The Health and Safety of our students and employees is of the utmost importance. Proper daily screening will be supported with effective identification and tracking processes as determined by the district.

- Staff must report to their immediate supervisor if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for reentry (see below for re-entry information).
- Any student feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic.
- Any person presenting a temperature above 100.0 or who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be sent home. Every attempt will be made to isolate the student prior to pickup.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead will receive classwork until the conditions for re-entry are met.
- During normal school hours all visitors will be screened.
- Visitation will be limited to essential visitors who have previously scheduled appointments.
- Nonessential visitors should utilize virtual meetings, when possible. Lunch visits are prohibited.
- Nonessential deliveries are prohibited.

WHILE STUDENTS ARE IN THE BUILDING

Common Area Physical Distancing

Cafeterias, restrooms, water fountains, hallways, gyms, or student commons area.

- It is recommended that water fountains in schools be used to refill personal use bottles only.
- Meals will be consumed at a safe distance in the cafeteria unless otherwise determined by the district.
- Restrooms should be monitored to ensure students stay spaced and are not lingering. Enforce proper hand washing.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located at the entrance to each campus and throughout the campus.
- When students leave a classroom, they should be instructed to wash hands or perform hand hygiene with hand sanitizer before going to the next location and to limit the touching of anything nonessential.
- Locker use is discouraged. If proper social distancing can be managed, lockers will be used by one person only.

Social Distancing

Explicit expectations, monitored and managed for 100% compliance

- Arrange classroom spaces to ensure social distancing that accommodate a reasonable number of students in a classroom. Consideration given to age of students and capacity to self monitor.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use no-touch greetings.
- Student workstations facing the same direction when possible.
- Movement in the classroom and hallway should minimize gatherings.
- Physical education classes will practice physical distancing, whenever possible.
- As possible, students should be managed as a pod - small groups of the same students.
- Community supplies should be avoided. Each child should have their own supplies.
- Classroom materials that cannot be disinfected (magazines, books, etc.) should be limited for use by one person only.
- We will continue to offer extracurricular activities and afterschool services consistent with the guidance in this document and with the UIL.

- Employees of school systems, like employees of any organization, must continue to meet the work expectations set by their employers, subject to any applicable employment contract terms.

Student Mixing

- Assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or teachers and staff together should be reviewed as to whether they are essential.
- GUSD will continue to follow all outlined district campus safety protocols during emergency actions and emergency drills, including drills or emergencies related to fire, lockdown, shelter in place, and emergency evacuation.

In the event of an actual emergency, such as a fire, lockdown, evacuation, or a shelter in place, administration will emphasize that social distancing will not be required but should be followed when possible.

HEALTH & SAFETY

COVID-19 Symptoms

Screening is accomplished by asking questions by phone or other electronic method or in-person. *Have you/they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for you/them?*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ● fever (measured or subjective) | ● fatigue |
| ● chills | ● congestion or runny nose |
| ● rigors | ● cough |
| ● myalgia | ● sore throat |
| ● headache | ● shortness of breath |
| ● nausea or vomiting | ● difficulty breathing |
| ● diarrhea | ● new olfactory disorder |
| | ● new taste disorder |

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed positive to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- A. Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- B. Being within 6 feet of an infected person for a **cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period** starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated.

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

Nurse's Office

- The nurse staff will set up a separate or partitioned area for symptomatic students while they wait for parent pick-up.
- The nurse staff will conduct a second temperature check to confirm symptoms if the first check indicates a high temperature or the student reports feeling feverish.
- The nurse staff will contact parents if symptoms are indicated and will communicate return to school protocols to the parent/guardian.
- The nurse staff will initiate GISD communication protocol for any symptomatic student including communication to campus administration.

Disinfection/Sanitation

- Staff will be properly trained on cleaning standards and expectations. Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations employees will follow the CDC guidelines regarding the cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection of all district facilities.
- Students will be provided explicit instruction and practice on proper hand washing. Students are encouraged to engage in supervised handwashing for at least 20 seconds at least two times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
- Tissues should be used to cover coughs and sneezes. If not available, coughs and sneezes should be covered in their elbows. After tissues are discarded, hands are to be washed immediately with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- There will be daily cleaning of touch point surfaces and work areas (doorknobs, handles, rails, light switches, water fountains, desks, chairs, tables, etc.)
- All schools and offices will be provided with enough hand soap, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant to accommodate frequent cleaning of high touch areas, and stock will be replenished regularly or upon request.
- Restrooms will be cleaned at least two times per day.

POST LAB-CONFIRMED CASES

Consideration for Intermittent Closure

Required actions if individuals with lab-confirmed cases have been in a school.

- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the district must notify the Galveston County Health Department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- The school will close off the areas that were heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements. Schools must notify all teachers, staff and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

- If three or more confirmed COVID-19 cases are in one specific area (classroom, pod) students and staff of that area will be advised to self-quarantine and students will move to remote learning while the affected area is closed for deep cleaning.
- If COVID-19 cases exceed 10% of a facility occupancy the entire facility will be closed for a minimum of two days. Students and staff move to remote learning and work. All students and staff at this campus may return if symptom free after cleaning.
- If COVID-19 cases exceed 10% at four or more GISD facilities, all facilities will close for a minimum of 5 days while students and staff move to remote learning and work. All facilities and buses will be disinfected, and extracurricular activities will be cancelled.

Re-Entry/Returning to School

Any individual who is either a) lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if any of the below conditions for campus reentry have been met.

***Any non-symptomatic person residing in the same household as an individual who is in category a) or b) cannot return to school until the symptomatic individual meets the criteria below:

1. If diagnosed with COVID-19 the individual may return to school when all three of the following are met:
2. At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
3. Improvement in symptoms (cough, shortness of breath); and
4. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared. If symptoms that could be COVID-19 are 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 steps of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 related 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; or b) determined to be free of COVID-19 at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

COVID-19 ACTION LEVELS

Level 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Low Transmission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Limited or no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff or students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Families and staff will be notified daily of positive cases in the district. ● Persons who came within close contact of an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted and advised to quarantine for 10 days. ● Extracurricular activities permitted with restrictions. ● Restrict outside visitors and guests.
Level 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Moderate Transmission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One or more confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 at one facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Families and staff will be notified daily of positive cases in the district. ● Persons who came within close contact of an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted and advised to quarantine for 10 days. ● Postpone non-critical gatherings and events and restrict outside visitors to essential services only.
Level 3	<p style="text-align: center;">High Transmission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A cluster of confirmed COVID-19 cases in one specific area; i.e. classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Families and staff will be notified daily of positive cases in the district. ● Persons who came within close contact of an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted and advised to quarantine for 10 days. ● Students and staff in that area will be advised to self-quarantine for a minimum of two days. ● Communications will be sent out about self-health monitoring, prevention information, and reminder to stay home if ill to all persons at the school or facility and parents.
Level 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Facility Closure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evidence of widespread COVID-19 cases at <u>one</u> facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Entire facility will be closed for a minimum of two days. ● Families and staff will be notified daily of positive cases in the district. ● Persons who came within close contact of an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted and advised to quarantine for 10 days. ● All students and staff at this campus may return if symptom free upon determination by the school district and health authorities.
Level 5	<p style="text-align: center;">District Closure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evidence of widespread COVID-19 cases within <u>multiple</u> facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All GISD facilities close for a minimum of two days. ● Families and staff will be notified daily of positive cases in the district. ● All auxiliary areas, such as playgrounds and athletic fields, may be closed, pending TEA and UIL guidelines. ● Extracurricular activities are canceled, pending TEA and UIL guidelines.

Decisions are made with the best information at the time and are subject to change with limited notice.

Continuity of Services

Galveston Independent School District is committed to ensuring that all students have successful learning experiences which prepare them for life. The District intends to mitigate learning loss through the implementation of the REACH Program at the elementary level and reading and math classes at the middle school level. High school students will have opportunities to the existing credit recovery classes. Based on feedback from school and community stakeholders, Galveston ISD was able to identify five top priorities for the use of the ESSER III funding:

- Student learning loss
- Technology
- Additional Staff Support
- Mental Health Intervention
- Retention of Staff

The plan is a living document and will be reviewed with feedback from school and community stakeholders every six months.

Student Learning Loss

Elementary Plan for Closing the Learning Gaps

During the 2020 – 2021 school year, approximately 500+ elementary students fell behind in their academic work due to COVID-19. Many of these students struggled with remote learning. Some experienced multiple quarantines while others did not participate in learning on a consistent basis. In an effort to mitigate the learning loss, the elementary campuses will implement a rigorous campus intervention program beginning August 23, 2021 through June 1, 2023.

Overview of Program:

Burnet, Morgan, Oppe, Parker, and Rosenberg will each have an intervention program for grades K, 1, and 2 comprised of no more than 15 students in each intervention class. These campuses will have master teachers (Intervention Specialists) to work with these students. One additional teacher will be hired to serve grades 3 and 4 combined. For two years, the remaining classrooms will have a limit of 20 students per class. Limiting the numbers of students per classroom will afford teachers more opportunities to meet students' individual needs and to better plan instructional groups. These campuses will have an instructional coach (one per grade level in kinder, 1st, and 2nd and one for 3rd and 4th combined) to work with data and their respective grade level students. These instructional coaches will be in addition to title tutors/reading coaches some campuses have. Crenshaw will hire one master teacher to work with identified students.

The Plan:

Each campus will identify 15 kindergarten students, 15 first grade students, 15 second grade, 15 third grade students, and 15 fourth grade students who are to participate in REACH.

Campuses will hire four teachers (one for K, one for 1, one for 2, and one for 3rd and 4th grade combined) who will coordinate efforts with other classroom teachers at their grade level and would serve as the coach to address the needs of the grade level students. Crenshaw will be able to hire one teacher.

Every teacher serving in the Campus Intervention Program will be trained on LLI for grades K, 1 and 2. Students will participate in STEMscopes math and ST Math.

The Campus Intervention Program will serve students who are in danger of being retained. Special Education students will not participate in this program, but will be served through the Special Education program.

Middle School Plan for Closing the Learning Gaps

During the 2020 – 2021 school year, approximately **600** middle school failed two or more courses due to COVID-19. Like their elementary counterparts, many of these students struggled with remote learning. Some students experienced multiple quarantines while others did not participate in learning on a consistent basis. In an effort to mitigate the learning loss, the middle school principals in collaboration with the high school principals propose the following interventions beginning August 23, 2021 through June 1, 2024.

Overview of Program:

Each of the campuses acknowledged the importance of strengthening support to their teachers and to the students effective the 2021 – 2022 school year. Each campus would benefit from having a content specialist in each of the core subjects (math, science, social studies, ELA). Currently, Central Middle School is the only school using this model. Austin, Collegiate and Crenshaw would benefit tremendously with the additional support. In addition to the content specialists, students at each of the campuses would also benefit from two additional math teachers and two additional language arts teachers to facilitate the acceleration of students who need additional support.

The Plan:

Each campus will identify eighth grade students who show evidence of progress to be able to move on to Ball High School per the request of the Ball Principal. Ball will ensure that the students are placed in classes that will help them catch up and be on course for ninth grade work.

Students in grades five (**5**) through seven (**7**) will be identified as:

1. those who need to be **retained** and repeat the entire year;
2. those who will participate in on grade level classes but will also have an additional **targeted class** in math and/a targeted class in ELA;
3. those students who are currently on grade level.

Students who are retained will repeat the entire year. This plan is focused on those students who are capable of meeting grade level expectations with additional assistance.

Each campus needs a minimum of four (**4**) teachers for targeted instruction; **one** for 5th and 6th grade math; **one** for 7th and 8th grade math; **one** for 5th and 6th grade ELA; **and** one for 7th and 8th grade ELA. These teachers will provide direct instruction to the identified students.

Instructional configuration – Students in grades 5 and 6 will participate in a blocked reading class and a blocked math class. The Targeted Class for either reading or mathematics will be an additional 45 – 50 minutes scheduled into the day.

Students in grades 5, 6, 7, 8 who have not been successful on STAAR in previous years will be strategically scheduled into additional math and/or reading instruction (Targeted Math) or (Targeted ELA) class. The

purpose is to ensure that students get the needed support as part of their regular school day and not pull students out of their on-grade level classes or have students wait for an after school intervention. **Intervention (Targeted) classes will have no more than 15 students in each class.**

Students who are significantly overaged would be candidates for attending AIM. AIM will be expanded according to AEA (Alternative Education Accountability) guidelines to support additional students in grades 6 - 8.

High School Plan for Closing the Learning Gaps

Students will participate in STAAR prep classes as well as credit recovery classes. The high school will also strengthen its Newcomer Program in order to support English Learners.

All schools will provide an Accelerated Instruction program beginning the summer of 2022 and continuing through 2025.

Technology

Technology includes hardware, software, and internet connectivity. Based on the school and community feedback teachers and students need access to Chromebooks, laptops, swivels, and graphing calculators. Teachers and students also need access to software programs in mathematics and reading that support student learning.

Galveston ISD remains committed to assisting all students in need of technology and will continue to work diligently to ensure all students have access.

The district will continue to provide students with technology, such as laptops, Chromebooks and internet hotspots. Students will be required to use the district-issued devices.

Families that need a laptop or a hot spot will be contacted by their school leadership and technology team. Together they will determine needs to access GISD curriculum and instructional options.

- Web: gisd.org
- GISD Service Desk provides technology support to GISD employees and families.
- Skyward access assistance provided by campus support personnel

Additional Staff Support

In order to provide students with intensive instruction and support to assist in the COVID-19 recovery, school and community stakeholders recommended additional staff for all elementary campuses and middle school campuses. The staff will be used to mitigate learning loss, to provide wraparound services and to support the social emotional needs of students. Staff includes additional teachers, instructional coaches to support teachers and students, Social Emotional Learning specialists, an additional part-time counselor and additional case managers for homeless students. Communities in Schools is a recognized agency that may be supported through the use of ESSER III.

Recognizing the need for professional learning, the school and community stakeholders recommended that dollars be allocated for professional development for PreK, for bilingual teachers, instructional interventionists and instructional coaches.

Mental Health Intervention

SEL Team Support

The Social-Emotional Learning department will have specialists available to work with campus teams focusing on maintaining social and emotional health. Session topics include mindfulness, stress management, and the warning signs of depression and anxiety. Additionally, a mental health hotline will continue to be accessible to GISD students and families.

Professional development will be offered to school staff to ensure teachers and school leaders are better equipped to support students in crisis. Campus-based counselors, social workers, and SEL specialists will continue to perform outreach to students and families.

Retention of Staff

Performance Pay for Turn-Around Campuses

Teachers and administrators at four high needs campuses (Burnet, Central, Collegiate, Rosenberg) will also have the opportunity to participate in an incentive program for accelerating student achievement and growth.

Retention Incentive

Effective 2022-2023, teachers will be eligible for a retention incentive.

Grading Policy

- Grades will be taken during each grading cycle of the 2021-2022 school year.
- All cycle grades will be used in the calculation of the final average for any class.
- Teachers will record grades, in a timely manner, which will be available for parents and students to access through the GISD Skyward Family Access portal.
- Teachers will use existing district support systems to track student data, measure academic progress, and determine the need for additional instructional supports and interventions.
- Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment courses will be subject to the grading policies of the Institution of Higher Education issuing the college credit.

Special Populations Support and Services

- Students receiving special services will continue to receive technology, support, accommodations, and modifications required by the student's IEP and Section 504.
- ARD Committees will continue to meet to determine the unique needs of students who receive special education services.
- Parents will continue to attend ARD meetings virtually if needed and will receive digital copies of their student's IEP.
- Parents of students served by specialized special education programs will receive individualized support from a special education case manager to ensure their student's needs are met.
- Parents of Gifted and Talented students will continue to attend virtual GT Meetings and communicate with campus GT coordinators for GT services.

Extracurricular

Extracurricular activities will follow the same safety protocols employed on campuses during the school day. UIL may impose more robust regulations.

Student assemblies, outdoor activities, and field trips will be postponed or held virtually until it is deemed safe for them to resume in person. Instructional interaction with colleges and industry sites will be conducted virtually. In the meantime, museums and cultural centers will be recruited to deliver programming directly to students.

Athletics

GISD Athletics will tentatively schedule games for the fall, while awaiting detailed state guidance about high school sports from the University Scholastic League. Plans will be adjusted as COVID-19 conditions change.

Coaches and student athletes will undergo entry screening in alignment with district screening protocols at all practices, sub-varsity games, and games played in district facilities.

Fan attendance may be limited or prohibited at campus and district sporting events depending on conditions.

If fans are allowed, they will be encouraged to purchase tickets online and screened upon arrival in accordance with district screening protocols. Fans also must self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, check their temperatures before coming to campus, and stay home when sick.

Our Commitment to Communicate

Galveston ISD is committed to educating parents, students, staff, and stakeholders about the GISD 2021-2022 Returning to Learning Plan in advance of the start of the upcoming school year. The plan will be translated into Spanish and distributed using a variety of communications channels.

- Emails and phone messages
- Websites
- Community and staff meetings
- Social media
- News media
- Parent flyers

The GISD Returning to Learning Plan and all associated information will be available on the district's dedicated web page: <https://www.gisd.org/returningtolearning>

The Galveston ISD Returning to Learning Plan is a work in progress as we continue to receive data and guidance from education and health professionals and local authorities. We may make changes to the plan as necessary to **Provide An Exceptional Educational Experience in the Safest Possible Way.**