

YES Prep Public Schools 2023 – 2024 Back to School Plan

September 2023



YES Prep FAST FACTS »

University-Preparatory

Program for grades K-12



Headquarters

Houston, Texas

16,365 Students



86.1%	HISPANIC
89.3%	FREE / REDUCED LUNCH
7.6%	SPED
69.4%	AT RISK
43.2%	EL
86.1%	HOMELESS



23 Schools

6Elementary Schools

17Secondary Schools



AWARDS & HONORS

90% Graduation Rate

AP Program Options

- AP English Literature
- AP English Language
- AP Psychology/Sociology
- AP Seminar
- AP Human Geography
- AP World History
- AP US History
- AP Government
- AP Statistics
- AP Calculus A/B
- AP Calculus B/C
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Art Portfolio
- AP Computer Science Principles



College & Career Readiness

Alternative Education Program

- THRIVE

All Eligible High schools earned a gold ranking by U.S. News & World Report



Rated Among the top 100 High Schools in America by Major Publications and 4 are ranked Texas's top 20

7 High Schools named among the nation's most challenging high schools by the Washington Post. prestigious international baccalaureate programing



INTRODUCTION..... 5

Safe In-Person Learning..... 6

 Masks..... 6

 Social Distancing..... 6

 Self - Monitoring..... 6

 Sanitization & Disinfection 6

 Hygiene..... 6

 COVID 19 Vaccinations 6

COVID-19 TESTING 6

COVID-19 Guidelines 6

Encouraging Prevention..... 6

On-Campus Prevention..... 7

Notifying YES Prep..... 7

Confirmed Cases & Quarantining..... 7

Receiving Notification 7

Student Uniforms & Dress Code 8

School Bus Service..... 8

Student Meals..... 8

Athletics, UIL, & Extracurricular Activities 8

Athletics - Travel..... 8

Athletics - Events 8

College Visits – YES Prep Sponsored..... 8

College Visits – College Sponsored..... 8

Small Group Gatherings 8

Large Group Gatherings 8

YES Prep-Sponsored Staff Travel.....	9
Teaching Excellence Saturday Events.....	9
Family Visitors	9
External YES Prep Visitors.....	9
Field Trips.....	9
Closure Plan	9
2023 – 2024 Timeline.....	10
Safe In-Person Learning & Working	11
Prevention Strategies.....	11
Staff Screening & Wellness.....	11
Masks.....	11
Positive COVID-19 Cases	11
Contact Tracing.....	12
Student and Family Support.....	14
Health & Behavioral Services.....	14
Food Assistance.....	14
Affordable Internet for Eligible Households.....	14
Physical Health.....	14
211 Helpline	15



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your support and partnership as we continue our commitment to prioritizing safety while also working tirelessly to provide the highest quality instruction for students. This year is a year we reimagine the whole school experience for our students, from safety, to student achievement, to school community.

As we plan for returning to school at YES Prep, we recognize that this will still be an uncommon school year, but we remain committed to supporting your student's learning, as well as his or her safety.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, there are steps families and schools can take to significantly reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families. Outlined below are the procedures our campuses will have in place to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respond if a positive case is identified.

YES Prep continues to monitor the latest developments and continues to vigorously promote safety measures and improve them where we can.

The health and safety of staff, students, families, and visitors is a top priority here at YES Prep. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, YES Prep has created this guide to provide guidance for the 23-24 school year with safety in mind.



Safe In-Person Learning

Masks

Masks, by law, will be optional. We encourage staff and families to make the decision that best meets their needs. The CDC does recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to pre-K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Social Distancing

All students and staff are instructed to social distance at least three feet whenever possible.

Self - Monitoring

Students, staff, and visitors are asked to monitor their health and stay home when sick.

- Parents are asked to monitor their children and check temperatures at home prior to leaving for school and upon returning home from school each day.
- Staff should continue to monitor their own symptoms and should stay home when they believe they are sick with a communicable disease. Please follow your campus or team protocol for requesting time away as needed.

Sanitization & Disinfection

All district schools and buildings will continue to be cleaned, disinfected, and fogged nightly with hospital-grade disinfectants as a precautionary measure.

Hand sanitizer and other cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided in all school, buildings, and buses.

Hygiene

Individuals are strongly encouraged to routinely wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, prior to eating, and after each visit to the restroom. Individuals are also encouraged to practice proper

respiratory etiquette by covering coughs and sneezes with the inside of their elbow, a tissue, or mask.

COVID 19 Vaccinations

The vaccinations available have been proven to be highly effective against many strands and even if infected, are effective in preventing serious illness.

We will continue offering students on-campus vaccines, COVID testing and other healthcare and mental health support through Legacy Community Health and other partners.

Additionally, those 12 and older wishing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and rapid testing at no cost, may also find convenient locations at vaccines.gov.

COVID-19 Testing

YES Prep continues to offer COVID-19 **PCR tests** via Legacy Community Health clinics located at various YES Prep campuses. Students will have access to **rapid testing** opportunities at their YES Prep campus, with guardian's consent and a signed permission slip in our YES Prep clinics.

Free testing through Harris County covidcheck.hctx.net

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, contact your school immediately.

COVID -19 Guidelines

The district has outlined guidance and protocols for confirmed, presumed, and exposed individuals. For more information, see Yes Prep's Family [Resource Center: COVID-19 Info & Resources - YES Prep Public Schools](#)

Encouraging Prevention

We can do our best to prevent the spread of germs and illness by taking 3 key steps:

1. If you can, get vaccinated. The vaccinations available have been proven to be highly effective against many strands and even if



infected, are effective in preventing serious illness.

2. Prioritize hand washing. Use hand sanitizer when hand washing is unavailable.
3. Stay home when sick or when displaying symptoms that may be related to an illness.

On-Campus Prevention

If your child has any symptoms or illness, please **do not** send them to school.

All YES Prep students and staff are expected to continue wearing masks while on campuses, on the bus, and at all district offices and facilities regardless of vaccination status. **Medical-grade or N-95 face masks are strongly recommended.** N-95s have been ordered for all campuses and are available to students and staff alike.

YES Prep schools will continue to be cleaned on a regular schedule, giving special attention to high traffic and frequently touched surfaces.

Other layered prevention measures like washing hands and physical distancing whenever possible are also still in place across our schools and facilities.

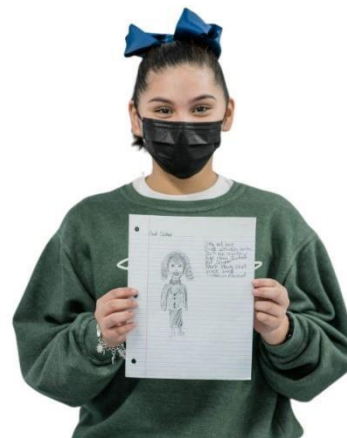
We ask families to please conduct an [at-home health screening](#) each day to ensure that your student, and all YES Prep community members, stay safe and COVID-free.

Notifying YES Prep

We are required to report confirmed positive cases to the Texas Education Agency on a weekly basis. If you have tested positive for COVID and have recently been on a YES Prep site, please notify your campus.

Confirmed Cases & Quarantining

If you learn that your child has tested positive for COVID-19, please notify your campus. Confirmed individuals should quarantine for 10 days regardless of being symptomatic or not.



Confirmed Cases:

- Must be reported to campus leadership
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19 the student should quarantine for 10 days regardless of being symptomatic or not. If displaying symptoms, the following will also be required before they return to school:
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving* *Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

Receiving Notification

YES Prep will communicate via e-mail or SchoolMessenger call with any information related to campus health and safety updates. Parents can also use the COVID-10 Tracker for test confirmed COVID-19 cases since the start of school by day and week. Find it here: [COVID Tracker - YES Prep Public Schools](#)



Student Uniforms & Dress Code

YES Prep will waive the uniform policy for students for the 2023-2024 school year, but students will follow the "free dress" policy as outlined in the Individual Campus Supplement for their school.

School Bus Service

Transportation Services is resuming normal operations and bus service at full capacity. It is highly recommended that students and bus operators wear masks that cover both the nose and mouth regardless of vaccination status.

Student Meals

All meals are FREE of charge to students in the 2023-2024 school year. It is highly recommended that students wear masks that cover both the nose and mouth when entering and exiting the cafeteria, as well as when not actively eating or drinking.

Additionally, water fountains will be available as refilling stations only. Students should not drink directly from water fountains and are advised to bring refillable water bottles to school each day.

Athletics, UIL, & Extracurricular Activities

Health and safety guidelines and protocols conducted during the school day shall also apply to after-school programming. Student programming is to be offered 100% in-person following social-distancing guidelines. Campuses may provide Family Engagement initiatives in-person and/or virtually based on campus and family needs.

Athletics - Travel

Busing for students participating in athletic events will be allowed with social distancing when possible.

Athletics - Events

Athletic programs will no longer conduct health screenings and temperature checks. Athletes are to

notify the AD of any close contact or symptoms prior to attending any athletics events.

Spectators are allowed at athletic events with the recommendation of masks and ADs ensuring that social distancing is being practiced at all times. Concessions will be allowed to be sold.

College Visits – YES Prep Sponsored

College visits may be arranged for seniors and juniors. For Junior Spring Trip, specific guidelines are outlined separately.

College Visits – College Sponsored

Seniors and juniors can visit colleges on their own if families are in support and are aware of health risks of traveling.

Small Group Gatherings

Small Group Gatherings are permitted in the decisions outlined below if...

- Health and Safety Guidelines are observed
- Social Distancing can be achieved
- The gathering is necessary for student success or **student/staff/family engagement**.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- ARD Meetings
- Disciplinary Hearings
- CNA Meetings

Large Group Gatherings

All large group gatherings must be approved by the DCO and principal using the Event Planning Guide. All approved large events must follow social distancing and health and safety guidelines. An Administrator is required for all on-campus events with an anticipated attendance of 50+ students. Masks are strongly recommended for all participants.



YES Prep-Sponsored Staff Travel

Staff should use their discretion when determining the personal risk of traveling for YES Prep business. All travel should be approved by their manager. If a staff member is driving students, they must be approved to drive first. Please email Talent@yesprep.org to start that process.

Teaching Excellence Saturdays

Professional Learning Saturdays will resume in person sessions starting on September 23, 2023. For more information Please email Teaching.excellence@yesprep.org

Family Visitors

Family visitors are permitted to visit a campus if their visit is necessary for student success. All family visitors must show identification and receive a temporary badge from the front office upon arrival at campus. Masks are strongly recommended for all visitors. Family Tours are permitted under this guidance. Non-essential deliveries such as lunch, personal items, and homework are prohibited.

External YES Prep Visitors

External YES Prep visitors will be permitted to visit a campus if the visitor is providing a service that impacts student success and learning. Visitors must show identification and receive a temporary badge from the front office upon arrival at campus. Visitors must follow social distancing and health and safety guidelines. Examples of these include vendors who provide tutorial and curricular support to students. Masks are strongly recommended for all visitors.

Field Trips

Field trips are permitted in the decisions outlined below if:

- Health and Safety Guidelines are observed
- Social Distancing can be achieved
- The gathering is necessary for student success or **student/staff/family engagement**.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Athletic Games
- Performing Arts competitive events (i.e. – Dance Competition)
- Museum trips
- Enrichment

All field trips must be approved by the DCO and Principal at least 30 days in advance by submitting the [Event Planning Guide](#). Students and staff attending an overnight field trip are strongly encouraged to take and receive a negative COVID test prior to attending the field trip. Free rapid COVID testing is available at all YES Prep campuses to YES Prep staff and students.

DCOs or a designated operations team member should use [Travel Tracker](#) to submit all field trips at least 21 days before the trip. Bus confirmation must be received before permission slips are issued, money is collected, and confirmation is sent to students or guardians.

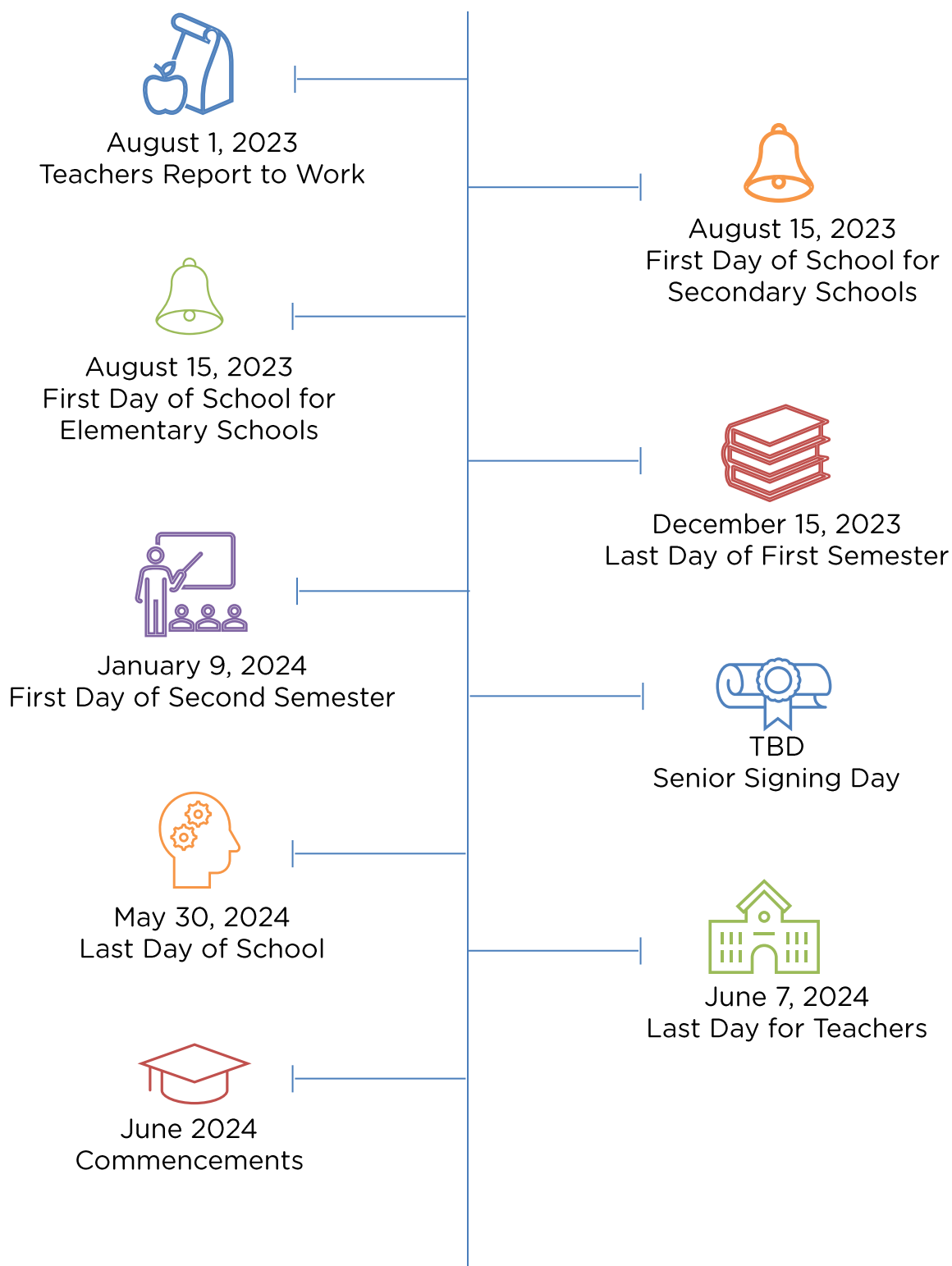
All non-YES Prep staff chaperones – including parents and family members – must follow the volunteer policy.

Closure Plan

We do not anticipate school closures. Should deteriorating COVID-19 conditions warrant the closure of a campus, classroom, or portion of a classroom, that determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by YES Prep Health & Medical Services in consultation with the Houston Health Department.



2023 - 2024 Timeline



[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2023 - 2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR \(ELEMENTARY\)](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2023 - 2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR \(SECONDARY\)](#)

Safe In-Person Learning & Working

Prevention Strategies

It's critical that all staff members utilize the following [prevention strategies](#) to help deliver safe in-person instruction and help to prevent COVID-19 transmission in our schools:

- Universal and correct use of [masks](#), though not required
- [Physical distancing](#) should be maximized to the greatest extent possible
- [Wash your hands often](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands. All staff should wash their hands:
 - Before and after eating food
 - Before and after treating a cut or wound
 - After using the toilet
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
 - Touching your mask
 - Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people (e.g., door handles and tables)
 - After touching garbage

- When opening or closing a restroom door use a paper towel, tissue, disinfectant wipe, or disposable glove
- If covering a cough or sneeze, do so with a tissue then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- Minimize all personal items brought to school.

Staff Screening & Wellness

Monitor your symptoms and stay home when you are sick. If a staff member is experiencing a fever they should not come to campus or leave campus immediately, and not return to campus until they are 24-hours+ fever-free without fever reducing medication

Masks

Masks, by law, will be optional. We encourage staff and families to make the decision that best meets their needs. Being an inclusive environment, it is imperative that we respect everyone's decision as to whether to wear a face mask in the presence of others. The CDC does recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to pre-K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Positive COVID-19 Cases

If you learn that you have tested positive for COVID-19, please notify Talent using this form. Confirmed cases must quarantine for 10 days regardless of being symptomatic or not. Return to work criteria:

If you are symptomatic:

- Provide evidence of a confirmed test prior to manager approving use of COVID-19 PTO days
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and



- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation. *
- 10-day quarantine or submission of 2 consecutive negative tests at least 24 hours apart after day 5. If you are asymptomatic:
- Provide evidence of a confirmed test prior to manager approving use of COVID-19 PTO days.
- 10-day quarantine or submission of 2 consecutive negative tests at least 24 hours apart after day 5.



Contact Tracing

Staff members who are confirmed COVID-19 positive are required to report their close contacts using the Staff Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Form when they notify Talent of their COVID diagnosis are encouraged to inform their close contacts of their COVID-19 positive status. No other forms of contact tracing will occur. Staff should do their due diligence to ensure they provide a complete and accurate list of their close contacts.

Case Type	Confirmed	Presumed	Exposed
Who does this apply to?	Individual with a positive COVID-19 test result.	Individual with one or more COVID-19 symptoms.	Individual who has been closer than six feet to a person with a confirmed or presumed COVID-19 case for 15 or more cumulative minutes in one day.
Quarantine/Isolation Time	<p>Isolate 10 days from onset of symptoms or date test was taken if no symptoms.</p> <p>Remain fever free for at least 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medications)</p> <p>Continue to wear mask and social distance.</p>	<p>Isolate 10 days from onset of symptoms.</p> <p>Remain fever free for at least 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medications)</p> <p>Continue to wear mask and social distance.</p>	<p>Quarantine 14 days from last day exposed to the confirmed/ presumed positive individual.</p> <p>Watch for COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever ($\geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$) Cough Shortness of breath Other symptoms of COVID-19
Requirements to Return to Work/School	Completion of 10-day isolation, fever free for at least the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and no developed symptoms since positive test.	Completion of 10-day isolation time, fever free for at least the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and improvement in symptoms.	Meeting requirements based on vaccination/boosted status. Please see below.
Vaccinated and/or boosted individuals in the last 6 months (two Pfizer/Moderna vaccines) or within the last 2 months (one Johnson & Johnson vaccine):	<p>If you test positive for COVID-19, you must isolate for 10 days, regardless of vaccination/boosted status.</p> <p>If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 10 days, you can leave your house. Continue to wear a mask around and practice social distancing.</p> <p>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</p>	<p>If you are presumed positive (exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms), you must isolate for 5 days, regardless of vaccination / boosted status.</p> <p>If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house. Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.</p> <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>	<p>Does not need to quarantine if these qualifications are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 weeks have passed since your FULL vaccination. No more than 3 months have passed since your FULL vaccination. Has no symptoms since the current COVID-19 exposure.
Unvaccinated/not boosted individuals or individuals who have been vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer/Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine over 2 months ago.	<p>Isolate 10 days from onset of symptoms or date test was taken if no symptoms.</p> <p>Remain fever free for at least 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medications)</p> <p>Continue to wear mask and social distance.</p>	<p>Isolate 10 days from onset of symptoms.</p> <p>Remain fever free for at least 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medications)</p> <p>Continue to wear mask and social distance.</p> <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>	<p>Quarantine 14 days from last day exposed to the confirmed/ presumed positive individual.</p> <p>Watch for COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever ($\geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$) Cough Shortness of breath Other symptoms of COVID-19



Student & Family Support

Health & Behavioral Services

We have partnered with Legacy School Based Health Clinics to address the health & behavioral needs of our students.

If you need additional support, get support regarding your anxiety or stress by speaking to a trained counselor at SAMHSA Disaster Distress.

Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or by texting TalkWithUS 66746.

For more information, visit [Legacy Community Health's website](#).

Student Assistance Form

We know that you may have some needs that arise as a parent, guardian, or student. You can receive direct help by submitting a "Student Assistance Form" or SAF. A campus counselor will follow-up with you to determine the best way to get your needs met.

To access the form, click [here](#).

Affordable Internet for Eligible Households

YES Prep has partnered with EveryoneOn to provide families with the best low-cost internet service and computer offers during this challenging time. By clicking on link below and entering your zip code, you'll find low- cost internet service and computers in your area.

Click [here](#) for more details.



Physical Health

COVID-19 has underscored the importance of health, fitness, and physical activity. In addition to being fun for children, regular physical activity has many health benefits, including strengthening bones, decreasing blood pressure, reducing stress and anxiety, increasing self-esteem, and helping with weight management. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children ages 3 to 5 should be active throughout the day. Children and adolescents ages 6 to 17 years should be physically active at least 60 minutes each day.

For more information, visit [CDC.gov/PhysicalActivity/Basics/Children](https://www.cdc.gov/PhysicalActivity/Basics/Children)



211 Helpline

As always, the 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE is providing information about community resources and connecting people to basic needs assistance and other social services, for which demand is likely to increase.

You can also search the 211 database online [here](#).

211 is not the number to call for emergencies or if someone suspects they have COVID-19.

If you have questions or need additional information,
please contact your campus directly.

For general information, please email

receptionist@yesprep.org or call **713-967-9000**