

Tolar Independent School District 2023-2024



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

This document is subject to change based on current circumstances, updated 3/19/2024

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Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Tolar ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 10, 2023. Despite the previous challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide excellent education to our students, with an in-person learning environment.

Tolar ISD will offer face-to-face instruction for the 2023-24 school year.

Our planning process has continuously evolved around new information and guidance that we receive from the state. We have planned with the following key priorities and focus areas in mind:

KEY PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS



- ▶ **Public Health and Safety**
- ▶ **Instructional Continuity**
- ▶ **Maintaining Workforce**
- ▶ **Equity**
- ▶ **Innovation**
- ▶ **Communication**



Fall 2023: Instructional Information for Families

This fall, Tolar ISD will be implementing instructional practices to provide consistency across learning environments and ensure the safety of students and staff.

Tolar ISD is committed to ensuring that students have an equitable experience and access to high quality instruction:

- ▶ Students will interact with instruction in a face-to-face learning environment, making it necessary for teacher teams to plan instruction that is content-consistent and ensures equitable learning opportunities for all students.
 - ▶ Learning experiences are designed to meet the needs of the learner where they are.
 - ▶ Students will engage in high quality learning experiences aligned to Tolar ISD curriculum and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.
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FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING

Students and teachers will attend class in-person, five days a week, with additional safety measures in alignment with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.

- ▶ In this setting, teachers will provide face-to-face instruction, learning resources and support utilizing Google Classroom.
 - ▶ Teachers will plan instruction that is quickly and easily transferable from face-to-face to remote in the event of a temporary school closure.
 - ▶ District-directed and campus-designed safety procedures will be implemented.
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Learning & Teaching Expectations

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| Student | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Attend classes according to the school schedule and give your best efforts in your school assignments.▶ Participate in class activities as instructed by teachers.▶ Be organized in your work and in getting projects completed.▶ Ask questions and communicate with your teacher.▶ Be aware of what you should be learning each day.▶ Become familiar with the structure of Google Classroom and how your teacher organizes information.▶ Turn in assignments on time. |
| Parent | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Access Parent Portal (grades 3-12) to view student grades.▶ For elementary students (PK-5), parents are expected to manage their email account.▶ Check in with student(s) to monitor completion of homework and assignments.▶ Discuss your child's favorite part of their day and what they learned in school.▶ Facilitate academic support and encouragement as a learning partner to motivate and guide your child throughout the school year in your role as a learning coach.▶ Maintain communication with your child's teacher by phone, email and/or meetings to create a learning partnership.▶ Monitor and ask for evidence that your child is on track with assignments and coursework. |
| Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Provide instruction and facilitate learning throughout the day.▶ Manage online and offline resources to provide consistency and routines for students.▶ Provide clear learning goals for students.▶ Check student assignments in a timely manner and give feedback in verbal or written form to provide next steps or necessary academic intervention/extension.▶ Post grades in a timely manner according to district grading guidelines. |

Support and Intervention

Student ▶ Attend intervention/tutorial sessions as established by your teacher or school.

Parent ▶ Allow your child to attend intervention/tutorial sessions as needed.
▶ Help your child own their learning. Provide support and encouragement and expect your children to do their part.

Teacher ▶ Provide intervention or tutorial sessions as needed.
▶ Follow student IEPs / 504 accommodations.
▶ Use data to pinpoint students' specific needs for enrichment and intervention.
▶ Monitor student progress with fidelity according to recommendations.
▶ Provide and communicate conference periods for student/parent support.
▶ Attend and participate in professional learning.



Return to School Protocols

Following are the return to onsite work protocols for Tolar ISD campuses and administration buildings. Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Tolar ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other information deemed relevant to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

Preparation for the Opening of School

Tolar ISD will ensure all staff, resources and supplies are prepared for opening school, including but not limited to assigning sufficient staff to carry out re-opening, ensuring proper training and stocking inventory of necessary supplies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Tolar ISD will implement health and safety plans that include:

- ▶ Ensuring adequate supply inventory (e.g., cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.)
 - ▶ Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency
 - ▶ Ensuring compliance with CDC, the Texas Education Agency and other state and local policies
 - ▶ Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings
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Protocols for Screening and Isolation

General

All students and staff will self screen for COVID-19 symptoms.

Screening Protocols

- ▶ Staff will self-screen prior to entering a Tolar ISD building, and the district may require further screening of employees at any time based on current state and federal guidelines.
- ▶ A parent or guardian will screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending them to school.
- ▶ Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- ▶ Staff and students should not enter a campus or district building if any of the following apply. If the individual:

- ▷ is sick with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:
Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- ▷ Has a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Isolation Protocols

- ▶ For students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling feverish, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- ▶ Schools will clean and disinfect classrooms daily.

Individuals Confirmed with COVID-19:

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria

The Texas Department of State Health Services has updated its school exclusion criteria to align the requirement for COVID-19 with those for other respiratory viruses like flu. Students now only need to be excluded from school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. You can find the current school communicable disease chart at www.dshs.texas.gov/idps-home/school-communicable-disease-chart.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will ensure health and wellness of students and staff.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations

- ▶ Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the campus.
- ▶ Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.

Disinfecting Expectations

- ▶ Staff will have access to disinfectant solutions to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects frequently.
 - ▶ Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.
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Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Daily Campus Cleaning

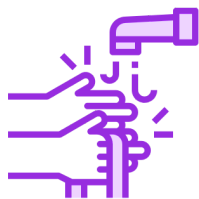
- ▶ Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected.
- ▶ All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- ▶ Cafeterias will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- ▶ Staff and students will have access to disinfecting items to sanitize working surfaces, shared objects, and high-touch areas after use and during breaks in instruction.

Restrooms

- ▶ Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day. Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the bathroom. Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.
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Protocols for Positive COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- ▶ Custodial staff will disinfect classrooms, restrooms, athletics, fine arts areas and all additional areas throughout the school facility.



Campus Health & Safety Protocols

Training

Students will receive instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system. To include the practice of covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover cough or sneeze with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

| Safety Training for Protocols & Procedures | |
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| Student | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Students will participate in training specific to newly adopted health and safety protocols. ▶ If a student is experiencing symptoms they need to immediately notify a teacher. |
| Parent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Parents are asked to talk to their students about symptoms of illness and prevention strategies. |
| Teacher/Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Teachers attend training and develop classroom procedures consistent with TEA, District and CDC guidance. ▶ All staff will be trained on screening, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread, and sanitation of work areas. ▶ All staff will monitor students that exhibit symptoms and will be required to notify the nurse if a student is showing any symptoms. |

School Arrival & Dismissal

| General Building Arrival & Dismissal | |
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| Student | ▶ Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. |
| Parent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Parents are encouraged to talk with their child about the health benefits of washing their hands, and/or using hand sanitizer. ▶ Parents are expected to screen their child for illness at home prior to coming to school. |
| Teacher/Staff | ▶ Campus staff will self-screen for illness prior to entering the building. |

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Students using school bus transportation services will follow revised protocols.

| Transportation: Parent Information |
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| <p>The Tolar ISD Transportation Department offers the following guidance to parents and caregivers regarding school bus transportation for daily bus routes as well as field trips.</p> <p><u>General Education/Special Needs/Shuttle Loading and Unloading Procedures</u></p> <p>Bus Stop Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Students should NOT share drinks or personal devices. <p>Morning Boarding Bus Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Use hand sanitizer. ▶ Bus in motion rules: Standard Tolar ISD bus rules apply. ▶ Students should NOT share drinks or personal devices. <p>Afternoon Campus Boarding Bus Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Use hand sanitizer (provided near stairwells). ▶ Bus in motion rules: Standard Tolar ISD bus rules apply. ▶ Students should NOT share food, drinks or personal devices. <p>Unloading at Bus Stop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Students should NOT share drinks or personal devices. |

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

All Tolar ISD Professional School Counselors are required to participate in training to address the possible SEL (Social-Emotional Learning)/Mental Health impacts of this pandemic and how they may affect children. This will include topics concerning:

- Anxiety
- ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- Trauma (Individualized and Shared)
- Grief Loss/Survivors' Guilt
- Compassion Fatigue
- Trust Issues
- Empathy
- Resiliency

TISD partners with Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center for Counseling Services and Prevention Education.

Each campus, prior to students returning, will have the opportunity to support their staff as they prepare to engage with students and families. This can be facilitated by campus counselors or other appropriate principals' designee(s). This will include some prescriptive "talking points" that all campuses will share with students to help ensure consistency, accuracy, transparency, and overall effectiveness.

Teachers must be intentional about building relationships immediately and consistently as they engage with their students. Daily practices such as using students' names and posting their names in their classrooms, doing a quick five-minute SEL lesson or check in, and creating a "Brain Break" area in the classroom for students when they need to take a moment to regroup will all work to help build a sense of belonging and decrease anxiety. SEL lessons can be readily available in the "Brain Break" areas for students to access.

Campus counselors and other related campus-level support personnel (Campus Nurse, etc.) are intentional in checking on the mental health and emotional status of students via individual and group support and resources.