



2026-27

# BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE

for Students & Families

DISTRICT  
*Made*



Committed  
to Excellence



Dedicated  
to Caring



Powered  
by Learning



Plano ISD  
Proud

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# **2026-2027** Back to School Guide

[www.pisd.edu/BackToSchool](http://www.pisd.edu/BackToSchool)

## **Welcome**

As we begin the 2026–27 school year, the Plano ISD Board of Trustees and Administration extend a warm welcome to our students, families and staff. A new school year brings renewed energy, fresh opportunities and a shared commitment to the success of every student we serve.

In Plano ISD, we take pride in what we build together: engaged learners, dedicated staff, strong relationships and a community that supports student success. This shared effort is what we mean when we say “District Made.” This back-to-school guide provides helpful information, key reminders and important updates to support a smooth and successful start, while reflecting our focus on consistency, clarity and a high-quality experience across the district.

Our dedicated staff remain focused on what matters most: meeting the learning needs of every student. We are committed to ensuring all students learn on grade level, grow academically and are prepared for the future they choose.

We believe strong relationships, high expectations and meaningful opportunities are the foundation of student success. With your continued partnership, we are confident this school year will be filled with growth, collaboration and achievement—outcomes that are truly District Made.

Thank you for your trust and support. We look forward to a great year ahead.

— Plano ISD Board of Trustees and District Leadership

# What's New This Year?

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## Student Badges

This year, starting in October, Plano ISD is expanding a new student badging system to all early childhood (including Head Start) and elementary schools. The new system enhances student safety and security, supports student identification and helps streamline daily routines across transportation and other campus services.

All students will receive a student badge for the 2026–27 school year. This expansion builds on a successful pilot implemented at select campuses last spring and will now be in place districtwide for all early childhood (including Head Start) and elementary students.

### How Student Badges Will Be Used

Student badges will be used to:

- Enhance student identification and support campus safety and security
- Scan on and off the bus
- Check out library books
- Access cafeteria services

Families are encouraged to help students bring their badge to school each day and keep it in good condition. Campuses will share additional information about badge use, replacement procedures and any campus-specific routines at the start of the school year.

### Secondary Student IDs

Secondary students will continue to use student IDs as they have in previous years. At this time, secondary student IDs do not include the chip-enabled features used with elementary badges.

Additional information is available on the website at [www.pisd.edu/smartbadge](http://www.pisd.edu/smartbadge).

# Student Expectations & Daily Routines

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## Student Code of Conduct

It is important for parents to review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) with their children. A few reminders for the 2026-2027 school year include:

- No personal telecommunication devices (cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, headphones, tablets, any non-PISD laptops or devices) can be used during the school day.
- No e-cigarettes or vapes. A student who sells, gives or delivers an e-cigarette (or vape) to another person at school or a school event, even for the first offense will receive a state mandatory placement at our discipline alternative school, Guinn SPC.

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## Personal Devices During the School Day

Texas law prohibits students from using any type of personal communication device during the school day while on school property. This includes the following: cell phones; non-district issued tablets; non-district issued laptops; smartwatches; smart glasses; wireless headphones and earbuds; all other wearable telecommunication devices.

### Student Expectations

Students are expected to have all personal telecommunication devices powered off and stored out of sight in their backpack or personal bag, from the time they enter the building until they leave campus at the end of the school day. This expectation applies during class time, passing periods, lunch, while in restrooms and anywhere on campus during the instructional day.

### Before the School Day Begins

- Prior to entering campus or a school building, students must power off their cell phones and secure all personal telecommunication devices in their backpacks or personal bags or pouches.
- Students should report to class on time with all devices powered off and stored out of sight in their backpack or personal bag.

**During the School Day**

- Personal communication devices must remain off, out of sight and stored in backpacks/bags or left at home.
- Personal telecommunication devices may not be used or visible at any time during the school day. This includes classrooms, passing periods, restrooms, at lunch or in any other common areas on campus.

**After the School Day**

- Students may access and use their personal communication devices once they have exited the school building and are in the school parking lot or off campus.
- Students participating in before- or after-school activities for a school-sponsored extracurricular activity may access their devices at the discretion of the activity sponsor.

**Enforcement and Consequences**

To ensure consistent expectations, all staff will reteach and reinforce the district's guidelines during the first week of school. Violations will be addressed as follows:

**1st Offense:**

- Device is confiscated and kept until the end of the day.
- Students are retaught expectations and sign an acknowledgement form when they pick up their device.
- The parent/guardian is notified by phone or email.

**2nd Offense:**

- The device is confiscated and secured in the front office and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian. An acknowledgement form is signed by the parent/guardian when they pick up the device.
- The parent/guardian is notified by phone or email.
- One day of In-School Suspension (ISS) will be assigned to the student.

**3rd Offense:**

- The device is confiscated and secured in the front office and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian. An acknowledgement form is signed by the parent/guardian when they pick up the device.
- Two days of ISS will be assigned to the student.

- The student will be required to check in their devices each morning at the designated location and retrieve them after school for the remainder of the school year.

**4th Offense:**

- The device is confiscated and secured in the front office and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian. An acknowledgement form is signed by the parent/guardian when they pick up the device.
- Three days of ISS will be assigned to the student.
- The student will be required to check in their devices each morning at the designated location and retrieve them after school for the remainder of the school year.

**5th or Subsequent Offenses:**

- The device is confiscated and secured in the front office and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian. An acknowledgement form is signed by the parent/guardian when they pick up the device.
- The student may be placed at the District Alternative Education Program (DAEP).

**Emergency Contact Procedures**

Parents/guardians who need to contact their child during the school day must call the campus front office. Staff will ensure the message is delivered in a timely manner.

**What Can Parents Do to Help?**

- Discuss the new law with your child and the requirement to power off and store devices during the school day.
- Remind your child of the consequences for violating the law.
- Encourage appropriate telecommunication usage.
- Promote the importance of student focus on instruction.
- Make sure your emergency contact information is up-to-date in [Skyward Family Access](#) and that your child knows important phone numbers.
- Reach out to your campus if you have additional questions or concerns.

Secondary students are encouraged to print a hard copy of their schedule due to not having access to their phone. If students do not have a printed copy, one will be provided on the first day of school.

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## Dress Code

The Plano ISD dress code is intended to create an atmosphere where maximum teaching and learning can occur. The district believes that reasonable dress code regulations help sustain a wholesome learning environment, one that supports the social, emotional and intellectual growth of students, not only while attending district schools, but also while preparing for their future endeavors.

It is the responsibility of parents and students to comply with school rules and regulations concerning dress and grooming standards. Any form of dress or grooming that attracts undue attention, is unsafe, disrupts school, is considered gang-related, or detracts from the learning process is not acceptable. The administration and faculty shall have the right to appraise any current fashion or fad and determine whether it is appropriate or inappropriate for school wear.

Details about the dress code can be found on the [Supplies/Dress Code](#) page of the district's website. Students in violation of the student dress and grooming code will be expected to change into appropriate attire (provided by the school or parent) or may be subject to other appropriate discipline when violations occur.

Here are some important dress code reminders from the Student Code of Conduct. The following are prohibited.

- Clothing with offensive, vulgar, lewd or indecent images or language.
- Content that is demeaning, derogatory, harmful, hateful, racially insensitive or antisemitic.
- Sleepwear is not to be worn at school. This includes pajamas, slippers, robes, etc.
- Sunglasses, caps, hats, raised hoods and any other nonreligious head covering that can conceal the face from clear view are not permitted to be worn in the building.

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## Attendance

Your child's attendance is not only important for academic success but it is also the law. Texas requires students to be in attendance for 90% of the scheduled school days. While make-up work will be available for excused absences, nothing replaces the interaction in the classroom. When a child misses school, they miss out on connections with others and on foundational learning skills. Parents can assist by scheduling appointments outside of the school day when possible, establishing a daily routine and setting attendance goals. Visit [the Attendance webpage](#) for more information.

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## School Supplies

A list of [K-5 school supplies](#) is available on the website. Students may obtain school supply lists from the school office and/or campus websites. All students will receive information about school supplies from their teachers during the first week of school. In addition to traditional supplies, refillable water bottles are encouraged for all students.

Parents may want to take advantage of the state's [Sales Tax Holiday \(or tax-free weekend\)](#), August 7-9, 2026, during which families can make tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100).

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## The Plano ISD Code of Civility: Our Shared Commitment

The Plano ISD Code of Civility continues to serve as the foundation for how we interact with one another every day. It reflects our shared commitment to creating schools where every student, staff member, parent and community member feels welcomed, valued and respected.

This year, the focus moves beyond awareness to everyday practice. The Code of Civility is not another program to implement—it is a shared commitment that strengthens the great work already happening across our district. By living the values of being **Trustworthy, Caring, Responsible and Respectful Citizens**, we help create positive learning environments where every interaction matters.

### What You'll See This Year

Throughout the 2026–27 school year, the Code of Civility will be visible in classrooms, campuses and district events.

- **TEKS-Based Student Learning:** Students will participate in age-appropriate, TEKS-based lessons and activities that reinforce the four principles of the Code of Civility.
- **Monthly Themes:** Campuses will highlight monthly character themes that promote positive relationships, responsible decision-making and a strong sense of belonging.
- **Athletics & Fine Arts:** A new student-led Code of Civility video will be featured at many athletic and fine arts events, encouraging spectators to help create a welcoming and respectful environment.

- **Everyday Interactions:** Staff will continue to model the Code of Civility through positive relationships, professional interactions and exceptional service to students, families and one another.

Together, we are building a culture where everyone feels valued, every interaction matters and the very best of Plano ISD is reflected each day.

## Transportation & Campus Services

For elementary students, badges will support daily routines connected to transportation, library services and cafeteria services. See **Elementary Student Badges** on [page 3](#) of this guide for more information.

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### Transportation

Plano ISD's [Transportation webpage](#) provides up-to-date information about bus services, eligibility, routes and safety expectations. Families are encouraged to review this information before the start of school.

Plano ISD uses **My Ride K-12**, a platform that makes it easier for families to access student transportation information. Families whose students are eligible for bus service can view individual route details, including route numbers, scheduled stop times and stop locations.

Bus route information is available in three convenient ways:

- **My Ride K-12 website:** [Access My Ride K-12](#)
- **My Ride K-12 mobile app:** Free to download on both iPhone and Android devices (see [step-by-step parent instructions to download the My Ride K-12 mobile app](#))
- **Skyward Family Access:** Under the "Transportation" tab

For more information about bus services, visit the [Transportation webpage](#). Key topics include:

- Transportation Plan Update (2025)
- Bus badges and parent placards
- Fare busing
- Late bus information
- Route criteria

- Bus conduct expectations
- My Ride K-12 Frequently Asked Questions

Families with questions or concerns can contact the **Dispatch Call Center** for bus information at **469-752-0792** or use the Transportation **Let's Talk** page for direct communication regarding their student's transportation: [Transportation Let's Talk page](#).

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## Library Media Services

Library Media Services is committed to ensuring that families are informed and involved in their student's library experience. In alignment with state legislation, parents are able to view the materials that their student checks out through a Library Guardian Account created through [Plano ISD Family Access](#). Additionally, through the Library Guardian Account, parents have the option to create a prohibited list that will block their student from checking out specific titles. Instructions on creating both the Library Guardian Account and prohibited lists are found on the [Library Parent Options webpage](#). Parents will continue to receive an email notification each time their student checks out material in the library.

As part of our commitment to transparency and parent input, parents can review and provide feedback on proposed additions to library collections. These proposed titles will be posted on the [district Library webpage](#) and the [School Library Advisory Council \(SLAC\) webpage](#) for 30 days prior to being presented for board approval.

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## Food & Nutritional Services

Food and Nutritional Services participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs which are governed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Families who may be eligible for meal benefits are encouraged to complete a federal meal application for free and reduced-price meals. The 2025-26 meal application will be honored for the first 30 days of the 2026-2027 school year. The 2026-2027 meal application is now available on the district website and through [SchoolCafe](#).

Meal payments can be made online via [SchoolCafe](#), or by cash or check during the school day at your child's campus. For more details on meal payments and to view [menus](#), please visit the [Food and Nutritional Services webpage](#).

# Student Support & Wellbeing

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## Counseling Services & Social Workers

Plano ISD counselors are dedicated to caring and ready to support students and parents in preparing for a successful year. Throughout the year, counselors will provide small group, large group and individual lessons as needed to support students in responsible decision making, academic achievement and college and career readiness.

- Parents with questions or concerns may contact the school counselor or visit the [Counseling Services web page](#) for helpful information and resources.
- Students and parents may request to see the counselor through their classroom teachers, through email or by calling the counseling office.
- Counselors will provide transition information and support each spring to students who are preparing for transition to another school level.
- Senior high school counselors are available to assist students with college applications, financial aid and completing college transition steps.

For additional support or to assist with crisis situations, counselors may refer students and families to the district's school social workers. School social workers are Licensed Mental Health professionals that use a wide-range of evidence-based strategies to create better outcomes for students (e.g., increased academic achievement, safety, attendance and social emotional-behavioral functioning). School social workers and social work interns may provide services to students in Plano ISD where permissible and consistent with local school district policy and practice and only with parent consent. For more information about school social workers, please visit the [School Social Workers web page](#).

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## Mental Health Supports & Parent Consent

Senate Bill 12 strengthened parental rights by requiring consent and transparency for mental health services and certain curricula. Plano ISD will continue our current practice of requiring opt-in confirmation for specific consent for mental health services.

These services are voluntary and will only be provided if we have written permission from a parent or guardian.

### Available Mental Health Supports

- **T-CHATT (Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine)** - In partnership with Texas Children's Hospital, this free program offers students in grades 4–12 mental health assessments, short-term therapy and help connecting to ongoing care — all during the school day.
- **School Social Workers** - Licensed professionals who help students and families with mental health needs, connect them to community resources and provide crisis support.
- **Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC)** - Supports students with substance use concerns through education, counseling and healthy coping strategies.
- **Communities In Schools (selected campuses only)** - Works with students who may be struggling in school by offering mentoring, goal-setting and help with academic, social or behavioral challenges.
- **Campus School Counselor** - Offers ongoing individual or group counseling to support academic, social and emotional needs such as stress, friendships, coping skills and conflict resolution.

No mental health service will be provided without parent/guardian written permission. For more information about referring a student for support, please contact the school counselor.

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## School Nurses & Health Services

School nurses and the Health Services Department help support a safe and healthy school environment for students and staff.

- Make sure your child's immunization records are updated and meet the state requirements for school enrollment and attendance.
  - [Minimum requirements for Pre-K](#)
  - [Minimum requirements for K-12](#)
- Prescription medication must be in the original labeled pharmacy container and will be administered in compliance with the prescription order. Written parent permission is required in order for medication to be administered. View additional information about [medication at school, as well as required parent forms](#).
- Over-the-counter medication for students must be provided by the parent. The school nurse may administer this type of medication with written parent permission and only according to the label instructions, appropriate for the student's age. A doctor's order is required for an over-the-counter medication to

be given for longer than 10 consecutive days or if the dose needed is different from the label instructions.

- All schools stock epinephrine nasal spray (Neffy) for use in undiagnosed anaphylactic reactions. Students with diagnosed anaphylaxis and prescribed epinephrine should continue to provide that emergency medication from home.
- If your child is diagnosed with a concussion sustained at school (other than athletics), notify the school nurse to discuss any necessary accommodations.
- Keep your child's health information and emergency contact information updated through [Skyward Family Access](#).

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## **Addressing Bullying, Harassment & All Forms of Hate**

Plano ISD does not tolerate antisemitic, racist or hateful behavior; any such acts are reprehensible and will be addressed with the fullest extent of the law. At the same time, we are committed to providing every student with a safe and nurturing learning environment where the rich diversity of our community is respected and the cultural and religious traditions that shape our students' lives are honored. If any student does not feel safe and secure at school, we want to know about it. Plano ISD has resources and a communications process in place to assist families in discussing or reporting concerns—including bullying, harassment, hate, threats, or acts of antisemitism or racism—so that we can act swiftly and better serve our students and families.

Antisemitism is defined by [Government Code section 448.001](#) as a certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Examples of antisemitism are included with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's "Working Definition of Antisemitism" adopted on May 26, 2016.

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited harassment or bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor or principal. Reports may also be submitted through the [online tip form](#) available on the website.

In order to conduct a thorough investigation, it is important that reports include specific information regarding the reported allegations including, but not limited to, the name of the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s) and witnesses; dates of the alleged events; location of the alleged events; any documents or other evidence supporting the allegations; and other information the reporter feels is relevant to the complaint. Without this information, the district's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct is impaired. Plano ISD

intends to fully comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations as well as Board Policies in this regard. [Visit the website](#) for more information and resources.

# Academics & Student Success

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## Academic Services

Plano ISD is committed to ensuring every student experiences high-quality instruction and has the support needed to succeed academically. Working together, families and schools help students build strong literacy and mathematics foundations in the elementary years while preparing them for success in middle school, high school, college, careers and beyond.

### Elementary (PreK–5)

In elementary school, Plano ISD is focused on helping every student become a confident reader and develop strong foundational mathematics skills by the end of third grade. Families can support learning at home by reading with their child each day, talking about books and incorporating math into everyday activities through games, cooking, shopping and problem-solving.

Elementary classrooms use Seesaw to share classroom updates, student learning and important reminders. Families are encouraged to check Seesaw regularly and enable notifications to stay connected with their child's learning. Additional resources and activities to support learning at home are available on the district's [K-5 Home Resources website](#).

### Secondary (Grades 6-12)

Secondary Academics is committed to providing all students with rigorous, high-quality learning experiences that equip them for future success. Alongside a strong academic foundation in English, mathematics, science and social studies, middle and high school students benefit from a variety of course offerings designed to support their individual interests, goals and learning needs.

To support families and ensure transparency, Texas law requires parent consent before students may participate in reproductive health instruction included in select secondary

courses, including Health I, Grade 7 Science, Biology, AP/IB Biology and Anatomy & Physiology.

During annual registration in [Skyward Family Access](#), parents will be asked to complete the required opt-in form for students enrolled in these courses. In addition, families will receive notification at least 14 days before instruction begins, including the specific learning objectives for the unit. Students who do not have parent consent on file will be provided with an alternative independent learning assignment during this instructional time.

### **Academic Support (PK-12)**

[Skyward Family Access](#) is the primary platform used to communicate grades and monitor academic progress. While [Skyward Family Access](#) provides valuable information, the best way to stay informed and engaged is by reaching out directly to your student's teachers with any questions or concerns. Open communication helps build strong partnerships between home and school, supporting your child's success throughout the year.

Students who need additional support mastering grade-level content may participate in intervention or tutorial opportunities during, before, or after the school day, depending on campus schedules and student needs.

In accordance with Texas law, students in grades 3–8 who do not meet the passing standard on a STAAR assessment or students who do not pass an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment will receive accelerated instruction. Campuses will communicate specific plans and opportunities for eligible students.

Academic Services in Plano ISD cover a wide variety of interests. Students with specialized interests and/or specific learning needs may be served by one of the district's special programs. Although details about your child are available through campus teachers and administrators, general district information about specialized programs is available on the district's website.

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## **Advanced Academics**

### **Gifted Services /PACE**

Parents interested in referring students for gifted services (PACE) can access online referral forms beginning August 12. Forms and more information regarding gifted services in Plano ISD are available on the [PACE webpage](#).

## **Advanced Coursework Withdrawals**

Plano ISD encourages students to participate in rigorous coursework to prepare for postsecondary success. Honors and Advanced Placement courses are open to all students if they meet the prerequisites for the course; however, once the school year begins, students may seek to change from an advanced-level course to an on-level course by following certain guidelines. The deadline for fall semester withdrawals is September 1, 2026 ([learn more about withdrawal requests](#)).

## **Advanced Placement Exams**

Students in AP courses that plan to take an AP exam will be required to submit payment for exam fees in Fall 2026. Specific dates and payment instructions will be provided to students at their home campus at the start of the school year. Students classified as economically disadvantaged based upon free/reduced lunch status will pay a reduced fee; specific exam fees will be set following the release of 2026-2027 subsidy amounts from the Texas Education Agency.

## **University of Texas OnRamps**

Students enrolled in OnRamps Dual Enrollment courses will be required to submit payment for OnRamps course fees that are inclusive of all materials. Information will be provided to students and parents by their OnRamps teacher during the first week of school.

## **College Credit Options**

Plano ISD provides several Advanced Academic pathways to earn college credit while in high school:

- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
- Dual Credit (with Collin College or East Texas A&M University)
- OnRamps (with University of Texas at Austin)

Students interested in taking courses for college credit should contact their campus counselor.

## **PSAT and SAT**

All 9th and 10th grade students will take the PSAT in early October. The PSAT is offered during the school day at no cost to students. 11th grade students may choose to take the PSAT/NMSQT, the assessment that qualifies students for National Merit scholarships,

which requires a small fee. In addition to providing valuable practice for students taking the SAT, performance on PSAT may qualify students for semester exam waivers in certain courses during the spring semester.

Plano ISD participates in SAT School Day, which provides administration of the SAT in early March at no cost to students. Meeting benchmarks on Reading and Writing and Math sections of the SAT can support students in meeting post-secondary goals as well as meeting criteria for College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR).

Students are encouraged to access [practice and preparation resources](#) provided by the College Board free of charge, including full-length practice tests. Students that have previously taken the PSAT should access the [Big Future website](#) and the [Big Future School mobile app](#) to receive individualized practice.

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## College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR)

The state of Texas implemented criteria to measure every student's preparedness for college and career called College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR). The goal of Plano ISD is for every student to have access to high-quality pathways to college and career and to earn at least one CCMR criteria by graduation. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) defined 10 paths students may choose to meet CCMR graduation requirements.

### CCMR for the Class of 2027-2029

For students graduating in 2027-2029, each student should meet at least one of the following CCMR indicators to show college and career readiness:

- Earn a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam or a score of 4 or higher on an IB exam
- Complete dual credit classes (3 college credit hours in English or mathematics or 9 college credit hours in any other dual credit courses)
- Completing an OnRamps course and qualifying for college credit
- Meeting the [Texas Success Initiative \(TSI\) criteria](#) for both English Language Arts and Mathematics:
  - Meeting the college readiness benchmark scores in both Reading/Writing and math on ACT, SAT or TSIA2
  - Completing College Preparatory English and/or Math classes
- Completing a Program of Study (sequence of aligned CTE courses) AND earning the Industry-Based Certification (IBC)
- Graduating with a completed Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and workforce readiness

- Graduating with an advanced diploma and participating in the Special Education Program
- Enlisting in one of the branches of the military or Texas National Guard

### CCMR for the Class of 2030 and Beyond

Starting with the Class of 2030 (incoming 9th graders), the Texas Education Agency (TEA) made significant changes to the way CCMR is earned by students. These changes are due to extensive research on student postsecondary success rates for each of the 10 CCMR criteria. Since some CCMR criteria have higher student success rates compared to others, TEA created three CCMR tiers for postsecondary readiness: **Foundational**, **Demonstrated** and **Advanced**. Students are encouraged to work with their counselors to map a graduation pathway to earn the Advanced CCMR Tier by graduation.

| New CCMR Criteria  | Foundational Level                                                                                                                                                                                               | Demonstrated Level                                                                                                                              | Advanced Level                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| College Readiness  | Meet TSI by completing College Prep courses<br><br>Earn college credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP or IB (pass 1 exam)</li> <li>• Dual credit (3 hours)</li> <li>• OnRamps (3 hours)</li> </ul> | Meet TSI criteria by meeting the benchmarks scores on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT</li> <li>• SAT</li> <li>• TSIA</li> </ul>   | Earn an Associate degree<br><br>Meet TSI on ACT/SAT/TSIA <b>and</b> earn college credit from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP or IB (pass 1 exam)</li> <li>• Dual credit (3 hours)</li> <li>• OnRamps (3 hours)</li> </ul> |
| Career Readiness   | Earn CTE Completer status <b>and</b> pass a Tier 3 industry based certification                                                                                                                                  | Earn CTE Completer status <b>and</b> pass a Tier 2 industry based certification<br><br>SPED Advanced Diploma<br><br>Workforce Ready IEP Diploma | Earn CTE Completer status <b>and</b> pass a Tier 1 industry based certification<br><br>Earn a Level I or II certificate                                                                                                                |
| Military Readiness | Complete 3 years of JROTC <b>and</b> score 31-49 on ASVAB                                                                                                                                                        | Complete 3 years of JROTC <b>and</b> score 50-64 on ASVAB                                                                                       | Complete 3 years of JROTC <b>and</b> score 65+ on ASVAB <b>and</b> enlist in the armed services                                                                                                                                        |

**Get recognized!** Students who meet the CCMR requirement will be recognized for this achievement during graduation with a special CCMR graduation cord. Students may also

earn spring semester exam grade waivers or exemptions. Students qualify for a release period during their senior year if they are CCMR complete.

## **Getting Ready for College**

Fall is a busy time for seniors who plan to attend college after graduation. SchoolLinks is a tool students can use to help research colleges and careers, submit transcripts and recommendation letters to colleges and track your progress. Below are some activities that students and parents need to be aware of as they prepare for graduation and beyond:

### **Applying to College – Application Platforms Now Open!**

The Common App and ApplyTexas portals officially open each year on August 1.

- [The Common App](#) is a widely used platform that allows students to create an account, build their profile and apply to multiple colleges and universities across the country.
- [ApplyTexas](#) is the application system for Texas public universities and select private institutions. Students can now begin creating accounts and completing their applications.

Starting in August, high school counselors will meet with all seniors to walk through the college application process. These sessions will include guidance on using SchoolLinks, as well as instructions for requesting recommendation letters and transcripts.

If you have any questions, please contact your senior high school counselor.

## **Financial Aid Graduation Requirement for Seniors**

In compliance with the Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.0256, all **12th grade students are required to complete one of the following in order to graduate:**

- Submit the Free Application for [Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- Submit the Texas Application for [State Financial Aid \(TASFA\)](#)
- Submit a signed Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form
  - [Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form](#) – English
  - [Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form](#) – Spanish

The 2027–28 FAFSA will be available to all students starting October 1, 2026. For more information, please click the links above or contact your Senior High School Counselor.

## Student Checklists

Our [Plano for Your Future Academic Guide](#) includes helpful checklists for each grade level to keep you on track and prepared for success after graduation.

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## Grading Overview

Plano ISD grading guidelines, in alignment with district Board Policy, are posted for all students and parents on the [Grading Guidelines page](#) of the district website.

Report cards will be available in [Skyward Family Access](#) at the end of each grading period on the following schedule:

- 1st 9 weeks ending October 9, 2026: Grades Posted October 22, 2026
- 2nd 9 weeks ending December 18, 2026 (Semester 1): Grades Posted January 11, 2027
- 3rd 9 weeks ending March 12, 2027: Grades Posted March 30, 2027
- 4th 9 weeks ending May 21, 2027 (Semester 2): Grades Posted May 27, 2027

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## Instructional Plans & Resources

School districts must make instructional plans and resources available for parents. Plano ISD will continue its current practice of providing this information for parents on the [district website](#). Teachers will provide parents/guardians with a syllabus or instructional plan for their classes at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, parents may view instructional resources and digital tools being used in the classroom when their child(ren) are logged into Webdesk. Directions for logging into Webdesk are [available here](#).

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## Instructional Technology

[Policy CMD](#) spells out the obligations of students and families related to Instructional Equipment and Supplies. Under this policy, students and parents/guardians are responsible for returning all school-issued technology equipment (like Chromebooks, MacBooks, iPads and chargers) in good condition. If a student intentionally damages a device or fails to return it, they cannot borrow another one until the matter is satisfactorily resolved.

# Student Opportunities

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## Academy Programs of Plano

Plano ISD offers six specialized high school (9-12) academy programs designed to prepare students for college and specific career fields. The timeline to apply to these innovative programs is in October and November each year. High school programs include:

- [Plano ISD Academy High School](#): A project-based STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) school where students solve real-world problems and work in a state-of-the-art fabrication lab.
- [Health Sciences Academy](#): A 4-year program hosted at Williams High School (grades 9-10) and Plano East Senior High School (grade 11-12) that allows students to earn industry based certifications, level 1 and level 2 college certificates, and workforce and academic dual credit hours through hands-on clinical and laboratory training.
- [Wildcat Collegiate Academy](#): Housed at Vines High School (9th-10th) and Plano Senior High (11th-12th), this program partners with Collin College to allow students to graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate degree.
- [Electrical Engineering Academy](#): In partnership with East Texas A&M University (ETAMU)—offers students a one-of-a-kind opportunity to ignite passion for engineering while earning valuable college credit. Hosted at Jasper High School (grades 9–10) and Plano West Senior High School (grades 11–12), this academy prepares students for high-demand, high-wage careers in a growing industry while earning college credit.
- [IB World School at Plano East](#): A school-within-a-school model where students can pursue an internationally recognized International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma that results in college credits and university-ready students.
- [Virtual Academy Program](#): The Virtual Academy expands educational opportunities by providing a flexible, high-quality virtual learning experience that supports student success, academic achievement, on-time graduation, and preparation for college, career, and military readiness (CCMR).

Plano ISD also offers the IB Primary Years and Middle Years Programmes for elementary and middle school students.

- [Huffman Elementary IB Primary Years Programme \(PYP\)](#): This program is an inquiry-based curriculum framework for elementary age students. It focuses on holistic development using transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry to connect traditional subjects with real-world concepts.
- [Wilson Middle School IB Middle Years Programme Candidate \(MYP\)](#): Designed to foster critical thinking and global awareness, it requires students to study eight subject groups and complete a community project, helping them connect academic learning to the real world.

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## Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Plano ISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) strives to provide learning experiences in innovative and rigorous Programs of Study that prepares all students to become leaders ready to impact the global workforce in high wage, high demand career paths. These CTE courses are offered to all students in 7-12 grade. A CTE program of study is a structured sequence of courses that prepares students for college and career success in a specific industry or career field. View [CTE Programs of Study](#) at a glance.

### New CTE Center

A brand-new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center will open during the 2026–2027 school year. This innovative facility will house 19 career-focused programs, offering students hands-on learning experiences and real-world connections to industry leaders such as TONI&GUY, CUTX, Toyota and more. These programs are designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for future success. Visit the [CTE Center website](#) for more information.

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## Student Clubs & Organizations

### Student Participation & Parent Consent

Plano ISD offers a variety of school-sponsored student clubs and organizations that provide opportunities for students to explore interests, develop leadership skills and build connections with their peers.

Parent or guardian [permission is required](#) before a student may create or participate in a voluntary student club or organization. Information about the club's purpose, sponsor and meeting schedule will be provided before a student joins.

All school-sponsored student clubs and organizations are approved by the district and operate in accordance with Board policy and applicable state law.

Some student activities are directly connected to a school course or are required as part of a student's academic program. Because participation in these activities is tied to coursework or credit-bearing instruction, they are not considered voluntary student clubs and are not subject to the same participation process.

## Family Communication & Engagement

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### Let's Talk: Unified Communication Platform

- [Let's Talk](#) provides a single, convenient way to reach out to Plano ISD with questions, concerns, feedback or compliments.
- Please begin your communication with the staff member most directly connected to your concern, such as your child's teacher or coach. In most cases, this personal approach ensures clear understanding and quicker assistance.
- If you need further help, use Let's Talk to reach your campus administrator or other campus staff. This is the next step for issues that require additional support or clarification.
- If the matter still isn't resolved, use Let's Talk to contact district departments or other district personnel. This third step ensures your concern receives the attention of specialized staff when needed.
- Let's Talk also serves as the official communication portal for our Board of Trustees. When appropriate, you may use Let's Talk to share feedback or concerns with the board; however, following the recommended communication steps above typically leads to the most prompt and effective resolution.
- If a response is needed, please expect to hear from the staff member within 24 to 48 hours.

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## Two-Way Messaging: Talking Points & SeeSaw

- Plano ISD continues to expand options for timely, secure communication between families, students and staff, especially for activities and classroom updates.
- [Talking Points](#) provides a secure, district-monitored platform for two-way communication between staff, parents and students. Messages are delivered directly to SMS/text inboxes, so no app is required for families or students to receive messages.
- For elementary schools, a similar application—[SeeSaw](#)—is available to facilitate safe, school-managed messaging between teachers and families.

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## Team Communication

- Coaches, athletic teams and Fine Arts use SportsYou or Talking Points as their primary platforms for team communication. These communication systems provide a secure environment for coaches, athletes, fine art directors and families to share updates, schedules and team posts in one place.
- These platforms support privacy, documentation and timely information sharing, meeting legal and district expectations.

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## District Updates

Plano ISD shares District Updates with families by email on an as-needed basis throughout the school year. These updates include timely information relevant to your child's school and the district, and are also archived on the Plano ISD website for easy reference.

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## Visiting & Volunteering

All visitors must check in through the front office and receive a visitor badge. For additional information regarding visitors, see the [Safety & Security Protocols](#) section of this guide.

Plano ISD values the participation of volunteers and appreciates their investment of time and efforts on behalf of all students. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should visit the [Volunteering & Partnering](#) section of the Plano ISD website.

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## **Parent Engagement Opportunities**

Plano ISD values strong partnerships between families and schools and provides multiple opportunities throughout the year for parents to connect, learn and support their child's educational journey. As part of our ongoing commitment to family engagement, campuses host events such as Meet the Teacher, Open House and grade-level transition meetings to help families stay informed and engaged.

Transition meetings for students moving from 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grade will be scheduled later in the school year. These sessions provide families with important information about academic expectations, campus procedures, student supports and ways parents can partner with schools to ensure a successful transition.

Families are encouraged to attend these events, as they provide valuable opportunities to build relationships with campus staff, learn about the upcoming school year and ask questions. Campuses will communicate specific dates and additional details as they become available.

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## **Parent-Teacher Conference Opportunities**

In accordance with Senate Bill 12, Plano ISD provides families with opportunities to participate in in-person parent-teacher conferences. Elementary campuses offer a minimum of two opportunities each school year and secondary campuses also provide opportunities for parents and guardians to meet with teachers to discuss student progress, learning and academic goals.

Your child's campus principal and/or teachers will communicate the opportunities and process for scheduling a parent-teacher conference. If you have questions or need assistance scheduling a conference, please contact your child's campus directly.

## **Safety & Security Protocols/Resources**

Plano ISD is dedicated to providing a safe environment for students, staff and the community at district campuses and facilities. The district follows a comprehensive plan addressing emergency procedures: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The plan is updated by the district safety and security committee yearly.

As part of the plan, each campus will schedule and complete drills and practices throughout the school year for a variety of situations: evacuation, secure, hold, lockdown and shelter. The Safety and Security Services Department will monitor, assess and provide feedback to campuses on the drills.

Safety audits are conducted at every campus in the district to proactively ensure that every school is operationally prepared for natural and human-caused incidents. The district also partners with local law enforcement agencies.

### **Proactive Measures**

- A [Tip Line](#) is available on the district website for all students to assure easy access to anonymous reporting of threats, bullying, crimes or students in crisis.
- The district has set a standard that all classroom doors are locked and closed at all times while students are on campus.
- Video cameras are in place to view entrance points, campus hallways and specific outdoor areas.
- Campus administrators emphasize the importance of building relationships with students and other staff in order to sustain a healthy campus culture. Students are encouraged to report concerns.
- Campuses are equipped with a video intercom system at the main entrance to identify visitors before allowing them into the school. The Raptor system is used for background checks of all visitors and produces a picture visitor badge for all approved volunteers and family members.
- All campus threat assessment members are trained in the School Behavior Threat Assessment techniques.
- District level security maintenance checks will be conducted on every school campus two times a year.
- The district Multi-Hazard Emergency Operation Plan (MEOP) and Campus Emergency Plans (CEP) will be updated prior to the first day of school.
- The Incident Response Plan (flowchart) will assure fast response from district personnel and allow campus staff to focus on the situation in a timely manner without a delay in communication with families.

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## **Standard Response Protocol (SRP)**

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) offers guidance and incorporates protocols into Plano ISD's school safety plan while respecting protocols from local, state and federal agencies. The SRP provides guidance for five specific actions that can be performed during

an emergency event. Students and teachers will practice and be prepared to respond to the following commands:



- **Hold** – Will be used when hallways and common areas must be kept clear of people  
Example: a teacher experiences a medical emergency in the hallway
- **Secure** – Safeguards students inside the building and classes continue  
Example: a nearby business reports a robbery; students and staff move around but remain safely secured inside the building
- **Lockdown** – Will be used to secure rooms and keep students in place and silent  
Example: A dangerous situation is in the school building
- **Evacuate** – Will be used when students must be moved to a new location  
Example: a gas leak in the school building
- **Shelter** – Protects students and staff if a necessary hazardous situation occurs  
Example: A tornado or severe thunderstorm occurs

## Training for Students & Parents

All students will receive training at their campuses to respond to the SRP. Resources may include a [seven-minute video](#) and tools that are specific to appropriate ages. Training will be held monthly and all schools will schedule drills prior to the start of school. Drills are not intended to cause fear but to prepare teachers, staff and students to respond with confidence.

## SRP Parent Resources

- [Information for parents/guardians \(English\)](#)
- [Information for parents/guardians \(Spanish\)](#)

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## Emergency Communications

During an emergency, students and staff will be provided with as much information as possible to help them make informed decisions about how to respond. Parents will also receive clear, timely updates as quickly as possible.

In the event of a school or district emergency, Plano ISD uses the following communications tools:

- The campus and/or Plano ISD website: Updates will be posted in real time on the campus and/or Plano ISD home page.
- Mass communication platform (e-mail, telephone or text messages): The district will provide updated information as needed to all parent and emergency contact telephone numbers and/or email addresses in the system.
- Social media – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X \(Twitter\)](#): Emergency messages will be posted immediately to Plano ISD's Facebook, Instagram and X pages. Follow these accounts to receive updates in your newsfeeds.
- Local news media: For districtwide emergencies, including inclement weather closures, Plano ISD will make information available to local television and radio stations and will enlist their assistance in communicating.

### **Reunification Information**

If an emergency occurs, parents will be notified and will receive instructions on how their student will be returned to their care. Parents are urged to stay home and await instructions from the district anytime SRP-based protective measures are being utilized to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

It is important that parents realize students will ONLY be released to a parent, legal guardian or emergency contact provided in school records. Photo identification will be required to pick up a student.

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## **School Resource Officers (SROs), School Marshals & Community Police**

Plano ISD partners with local police departments to assign School Resource Officers to all secondary schools. SROs are licensed police officers specially trained to work in schools full time during the school year. Uniformed, licensed School Marshals are assigned to all elementary schools. Additionally, Patrol and Neighborhood Officers regularly monitor and visit elementary campuses.

- Police officers have access to all campuses and visit campuses regularly to build relationships with staff and students.
- Police command staff and dispatch have access to school video cameras for emergency events.
- All SROs are trained to serve on Behavior Threat Assessment teams for all campuses.
- Off-duty police officers are hired to provide security at events that will be heavily attended.

## Protocols for Campus Visitors & Volunteers

### Visitors to Campus

- All visitors must sign in every time they enter a building and wear a visitor badge at all times while on campus.
- All visitors must sign in through the Raptor system.
- All visitors must use the main entrance upon arrival at a campus.

### Identification Badge Protocol

All campuses will expect staff, teachers and students to wear badges. No visitors will be allowed on a campus without a badge from the Raptor system issued at every visit.

All exterior doors will be locked and secured daily. Badges will be necessary to enter the buildings. All interior doors will be locked. Specific protocol due to a campus's blueprint and students' security needs are taken into consideration and approved by the Safety and Security Services Department.

# Important Dates & Seasonal Reminders

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## School Calendar

Plano ISD students will begin classes on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. The last day of school will be Friday, May 21, 2027.

The first student holiday will be Labor Day on Monday, September 7, 2026. Students will also have week-long breaks for Thanksgiving (November 23–27, 2026), Winter Break (December 21, 2026–January 1, 2027) and Spring Break (March 15–19, 2027). The second semester will begin for students on Tuesday, January 5, 2027.

For additional student holidays, early release days, grading period information and school hours, see the [District Calendar](#) and [School Hours](#) sections on the Plano ISD website.

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## Inclement Weather

**Monitoring Weather:** The Safety and Security Services Department monitors weather conditions that may impact the Plano ISD community. Department staff rely on publicly available weather information sources, including internet weather sources, National

Weather Service alerts and local media outlets. The department also stays in contact with local city emergency management departments during periods of anticipated volatile weather. It is strongly recommended that individual campuses monitor weather conditions in their immediate area as local conditions may vary across the district.

**School Notification:** In the event of anticipated or imminent severe weather that may impact school operations, the Safety and Security Services Department will notify campuses and district leadership. The department has the ability to communicate with campuses, school buses and other facilities via a district-wide emergency radio system if necessary. In the event of a weather emergency affecting all or portions of the district, these radios will be used to provide information to campuses regarding halting dismissal of students, diverting school buses and other emergency actions. The decision to alter school schedules or to cancel school must be approved by the Superintendent or designee. The decision to stop or delay dismissal district-wide is normally approved by the Deputy Superintendent for Leadership and Operations, but individual campuses can stop or delay dismissal in an emergency when necessary for student safety.

**Communicating Emergency Closures of Schools and Offices:** The Superintendent of Schools may close schools and offices due to severe weather or emergencies (e.g., icy roads, power outages, flooding, etc.). In that case, Plano ISD announces such closings through the various communication channels mentioned above in the [Emergency Communication section](#).

**Cancellation of After-School or Evening Events:** The decision to cancel after-school or evening activities due to inclement weather in the forecast is ordinarily made at the campus level or by the Deputy Superintendent for Leadership and Operations.

**Athletics:** The threat of inclement weather may impact athletic events and practices throughout the course of a school year. Plano ISD follows detailed weather guidelines that will ensure the safety of student athletes, patrons and coaches. You may view the [Safe to Play: Athletics and Fine Arts Weather Safety Guide](#) and [UIL Heat Policy](#) for specific measures taken in compliance with UIL and the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature protocols.

**Fine Arts:** The threat of inclement weather may impact fine arts events, practices and competitions throughout the course of a school year. Additionally, extreme heat and cold may cause adjustments in procedures regarding practices and seasonal events to ensure the safety of students and staff. Plano ISD follows detailed weather guidelines that assure the safety of student artists, performers, patrons and program directors. You may view the [Safe to Play: Athletics and Fine Arts Weather Safety Guide](#), as well as the [UIL Heat Policy](#).