HISD 2021-2022 BACK TO SCHOOL PARENT GUIDE

READY SET GO

HOUSTONISD.ORG/READYSETGO

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

July 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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August 2021

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April 2022

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May 2022

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June 2022

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Key

- Holidays
- Teacher Preparation Days (no students)
- Teacher Service Days (no students)
- Enrichment Opportunities

School Day Start and End Times

7:30-3:00	Elementary
8:30-4:00	K-8 and Middle School
8:30-4:10	High School

Holidays

September 6, 2021	Labor Day
September 16, 2021	Fall Holiday
November 22 - 26, 2021	Thanksgiving Break
December 20- 31, 2021	Winter Break
January 17, 2022	MLK Day
February 21, 2022	Presidents' Day (students only)
March 14 - 18, 2022	Spring Break
March 28, 2022	Chavez-Huerta Day
April 15, 2022	Spring Holiday
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day

Significant Dates

August 16, 2021	Teachers report to work
August 23, 2021	First day of school
January 14, 2022	Last day of first semester
January 19, 2022	First day of second semester
June 7, 2022	Last day of school for students
June 8, 2022	Last day for teachers

Grading Periods		Report Card Dates
Aug 23-Oct 1	27 days	October 8, 2021
Oct 5-Nov 12	29 days	November 19, 2021
Nov 15-Jan 14	30 days	January 21, 2022
Jan 19-Feb 25	27 days	March 4, 2022
Feb 28-April 22	33 days	April 29, 2022
April 25-June 7	31 days	June 7, 2022 (ES/MS)
		June 15, 2022 (HS)

FAQ

GENERAL

What is the plan for the 2021-2022 school year?

- HISD will provide in-person learning five days per week for all students during the 2021-2022 school year. Students who are unable to attend school because of a physician-documented temporary medical condition are eligible for a maximum of 20 days of temporary online learning during the 2021-2022 school year. To learn more, review the **HISD Ready, Set, Go! Back to School Plan**.

What is the HISD Ready, Set, Go! Back to School Plan?

- The Ready, Set, Go! Back to School Plan provides students, families, employees, and community stakeholders with the information necessary for a safe return to in-person learning. The plan outlines both instructional and operational protocols for all facets of the country's eighth largest public school system. The plan is considered a living, dynamic document to allow for updates as conditions change.

Will uniforms be required this school year?

- Student uniform policies will be flexible at all schools for the 2021-2022 school year but campus dress codes should be followed.

Will students have a virtual learning option?

- No. Because all students are returning face-to-face, virtual learning is no longer available. However, temporary online learning will be offered to students who are unable to attend school because of a physician-documented temporary medical condition are eligible for a maximum of 20 days during the 2021-2022 school year.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

What safety protocols will be in place this year?

- Students, staff, and visitors are asked to monitor their health and stay home when sick.
- Masks covering the nose and mouth are required for all individuals inside all HISD schools, buildings, and buses regardless of vaccination status. Their use is also encouraged outdoors.
- Elementary students will continue to undergo temperature screening upon arrival at school because they are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.
- Pending HISD Board of Education approval, all staff will be required to complete online self-assessments through the Axiom Medical CheckIn2Work health screening app before arriving at work.
- All district schools and buildings will 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.
- Sanitization stations will be available in all buildings and students and staff are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands regularly.
- Assigned seats will be required in classrooms, cafeterias, and buses.
- Plexiglass dividers will be kept in place.
- Visitation is limited to essential and pre-scheduled visitors, including individuals who have been pre-approved through the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program. Parents registering their children for school also are allowed.

- In-person gatherings, meetings, and events are permitted in HISD schools and buildings if all attendees wear masks and maintain 6 feet of physical distance. If these conditions cannot be met, the gathering must be held outdoors or virtually.
- Heating and cooling systems will undergo regular inspections with repairs prioritized and filters replaced with the highest grade allowable.
- Building rentals to outside groups and organizations will continue to be prohibited.

Is entry screening required?

- Elementary students will undergo daily temperature checks because they don't have access to vaccinations. Middle and high school students should self-monitor and stay home if sick.
- Pending HISD Board of Education approval, all HISD campus and non-campus staff must check in daily via the Axiom Medical CheckIn2Work health screening app.

Will my child be required to wear a mask while at school?

- Yes. Masks covering both the nose and mouth are required for all individuals inside all HISD schools, buildings, and buses regardless of vaccination status. Their use is also encouraged outdoors.

How often will schools be sanitized?

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

Will visitors be allowed on school campuses?

- Schools and buildings are limited to pre-scheduled visitors, including after-school program staff, as well as parent and community members who have been approved through the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program and have appointments. Parents registering their children for school also are allowed.
- All HISD visitors will be screened prior to entry and required to wear a mask while at all district schools and buildings. Visitors experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease must stay home and will not be allowed on HISD premises.

TECHNOLOGY & ONLINE RESOURCES

How do parents obtain technology for students?

- Wireless hotspot devices will be made available to any student who does not have access to broadband internet at home. Parents should contact their campus for technology needs.

Can I still use online resources provided last year?

- Yes. Digital resources and learning materials are still available to all students and staff through the HISD HUB. These resources include digital lessons in the HUB, Imagine Math, Imagine Language, MyOn, and MackinVIA.

BUS SERVICE & STUDENT MEALS

How will bus service work this year?

- Transportation Services is resuming normal operations and bus service. Assigned seating will be required. Students must wear a mask, sanitize their hands, and scan their bus badge, and sit in assigned seats upon boarding. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized regularly with hospital-grade disinfectant as a precautionary measure. Each bus will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant, towels, and first aid supplies.

How will student meals be provided this year?

- Nutrition Services is resuming normal operations and offerings. Nutrition Services staff provide breakfast in the classroom and lunch in the cafeteria, as well as snack and dinner service at select campuses. Assigned seating will be required for all students and masks must be worn at all times when not actively eating or drinking. When possible, students should be spaced out, using every other seat.

Will curbside pickup for student meals still be offered?

- Campus curbside pickup for student meals is discontinued.

Can schools/parent groups resume selling food on campus?

- Competitive food sales — food sold by schools, parent groups, booster clubs, and outside vendors — are prohibited.

ACADEMICS AND EXTRACURRICULARS

What will extracurricular and fine arts activities be allowed?

- Competitions and practices, as well as extracurricular activities and performances, will take place following campus guidelines. Spectator capacity is limited to 50 percent at all indoor and outdoor competitions, and masks are required for attendees not actively competing at indoor events.

Will field trips be allowed?

- Non-athletic field trips, including enrichment or curricular trips, are suspended for the fall semester.

Can my child participate in University Interscholastic League Athletics and Activities?

- Yes. All athletic competitions and practices and on-campus extracurricular activities are permitted following campus guidelines.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

What is a Temporary Distance Learning Plan (TDLP)?

- TDLP is the district's contingency plan for students with disabilities who have transitioned to temporary online learning due to COVID-19.

Who qualifies for a TDLP?

- Every student with disabilities who is enrolled on a physical HISD campus is eligible.

How does a TDLP work?

- TDLP is discussed and agreed-upon during the ARD-IEP committee meeting. It is an official ARD-IEP document and cannot be discussed or agreed upon outside of the ARD-IEP process.
- TDLP documents for students with disabilities include selected goals, accommodations, services that will be provided and the method of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous) to ensure continuity of learning while engaged in virtual instruction or remote conferencing.

Does a TDLP continue when a student with disabilities returns to school?

- TDLP is not applicable when students with disabilities return to face-to-face instruction. Full execution of the IEP occurs upon the students return to face-to-face instruction.

Are there any special considerations related to TDLP?

- In-State Transfers: 30 days to conduct an ARD-IEP meeting to address special education services for the incoming student. The TDLP must be addressed during the transfer ARD process. Students within the state of Texas, as a federal and state requirement, must have a virtual instruction or remote conferencing contingency plan or an ARD amendment to address student services. This document should accompany the incoming IEP. Should the need arise for virtual instruction or remote conferencing, execute with fidelity. This contingency plan/amendment must be executed and in place until the transfer ARD has been conducted.

- Out-of-State Transfers: For students receiving special education services that transfer from other states, the incoming IEP must be executed until the transfer ARD/IEP meeting occurs within the first 30 days of enrollment. These students may or may not have a virtual instruction or remote conferencing plan already in place. Should the need arise for the student to access virtual instruction or remote conferencing, the current IEP should be implemented to the maximum extent possible. An ARD/IEP meeting should be convened as soon as possible and a TDLP developed and reviewed. If special education services are not implemented during the period of virtual instruction or remote conferencing, then compensatory services should be considered at the next ARD/IEP meeting.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

What happens if there is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in my school?

- All campuses are required to have a Student Health Isolation Pod (SHIP). This is a designated area where students can isolate separate from the school clinic. Students exhibiting symptoms of a recognized communicable disease must be placed in this isolation area, away from others, until picked up by a parent/guardian. The school nurse will initiate and complete the contact tracing process, documenting exposed, presumed, and confirmed COVID-19 cases in HISD's electronic health record.

What should families do if a student gets COVID?

- If a student becomes infected with COVID-19, they must notify their campus, stay home and quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, and attend temporary online learning established by their campus.

Will students be counted absent if they have to quarantine?

- Students will not be counted absent as long as they attend four hours of temporary online learning each day.

Will I be notified if there is a case of COVID on my campus?

- If a presumed or confirmed COVID-19 case is detected in a classroom, impacted students will be identified through the contact tracing process. Parents/caregivers of impacted students will be notified and provided with next steps related to quarantine and any other measures that should be taken. If quarantine is required, the student must stay home.

What warrants quarantine for employees?

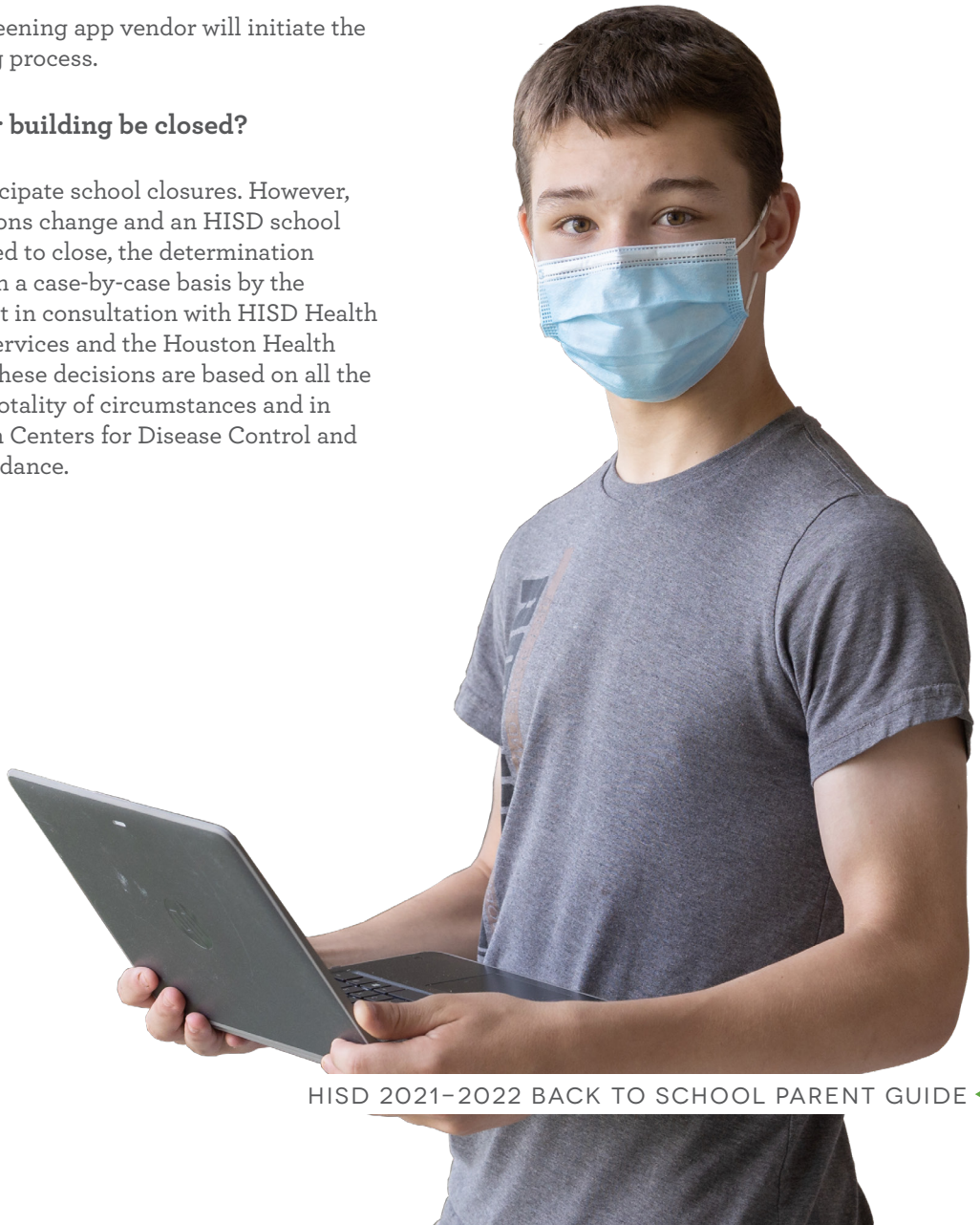
- If staff meeting any of the below three conditions, they must quarantine. If they are at work, they must leave immediately. Otherwise, they are instructed to remain at home and notify their direct supervisor.
  - Lab-confirmed COVID-19 case
  - Exhibiting symptoms of a recognized communicable disease
  - Exposed to either a confirmed or presumed positive COVID-19 case

Who handles contract tracing for staff?

- The health screening app vendor will initiate the contact tracing process.

Could my school or building be closed?

- We do not anticipate school closures. However, should conditions change and an HISD school or building need to close, the determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent in consultation with HISD Health and Medical Services and the Houston Health Department. These decisions are based on all the evidence and totality of circumstances and in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.



HISD 2021–2022 BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

READY SET GO

HISD will provide in-person learning five days per week for all students during the 2021-2022 school year. To ensure safe in-person experiences, HISD is working closely with health and education officials and maintaining key health and safety protocols.

STUDENTS & STAFF

- Wear masks in all HISD schools, buildings, and buses for all students, staff, and visitors.
- Watch your distance — try to stay at least three feet apart when inside.
- Wash and sanitize your hands regularly.
- Stay home when sick.
- Participate in COVID-19 screen testing throughout the year and when you feel ill.
- Use water fountains only to refill bottles. Don't drink directly from them.

HISD SAFETY EFFORTS

- Vaccinations are the first line of defense and HISD is hosting vaccination clinics through August.
- Sanitization stations will be available in all facilities.
- All buildings will be cleaned and disinfected nightly with hospital-grade disinfectant.
- Assigned seating is required in classrooms, cafeterias, and buses.
- School bus service will be offered at full capacity with masks and assigned seating required.
- Student Meals will be served as usual with breakfast in the classroom and lunch in the cafeteria. Students must sit in assigned seats and wear masks when not eating or drinking.
- Visitation is limited to pre-scheduled, approved visitors and parents registering their children for school. Masks and entry screening are required.
- Student uniform policies will be flexible but campus dress codes should still be followed.
- Perfect attendance will not be recognized and there are no grade exemptions.
- Spectator capacity is limited to 50 percent for athletic, academic, and general extracurricular practices and competitions. Masks are required at indoor events and encouraged at outdoor events.
- Non-athletic field trips are suspended for the fall semester.
- Large in-person gatherings, meetings, and events are permitted only if attendees wear masks and maintain 6 feet of physical distance. Otherwise, they must be virtual.
- Out-of-district travel and conferences are suspended until further notice.
- Closures will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent in consultation with HISD Health and Medical Services and the Houston Health Department.

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

For general information, please email
Parents@HoustonISD.org or call **713-556-7121**.