

# RECONNECT SAFELY RETURN STRONG



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# REOPENING TIMELINE

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT


## INSTRUCTIONAL FORMAT FALL 2020

**SEPTEMBER 8:**  
First day of school (Virtual only)

**OCTOBER 19:**  
Face-to-face instruction begins subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the city of Houston and recommendations from local, state, and federal health officials. \*

**SEPTEMBER 8- JANUARY 29:**  
First semester of remote learning for students/parents who choose online-only instruction.

*\*Parents will have the option to choose remote instruction for the fall semester (through January 29) or entire school year (through June 11).*



- Even with HISD's enhanced safety protocols, some families may be reluctant for their students to return to the classroom once face-to-face instruction resumes. Those families may select an online-only option for a portion of the year or the entire school year. Parents choosing this option must attend a virtual class outlining expectations and sign an agreement committing to virtual learning for the semester.
- A gradual transition to 100% face-to-face instruction will give us time to monitor conditions across the city, making adjustments as necessary, and ensure our safety protocols are closely followed.

## PARENT FAQs

### What is the plan for the 2020-2021 school year?

All students will begin the 2020-2021 school year virtually on September 8, 2020. Virtual instruction for all students will continue for six weeks through Friday, October 16, 2020. On Monday, October 19, 2020, face-to-face instruction for all students will begin. However, this date is subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the city of Houston and recommendations from local, state, and federal health officials.

### What is the timeline?

- **September 8, 2020: First day of school (Virtual only)**
- **October 19, 2020: Face-to-face instruction begins\***
- **September 8 – January 29: First semester of remote learning for students/parents who choose online-only instruction.**

*\*Parents will have the option to choose remote instruction for the fall semester (through January 29) or the entire school year (through June 11).*

### How was the reopening plan formulated?

The HISD Communicable Disease Plan Task Force, a group of key employees, educators, parents, community members, and health care officials, was charged with reviewing safety guidance from local, state, and federal health and education officials. The district also considered feedback from parent and teacher surveys distributed over the summer. The HISD Academics team developed an Instructional Continuity Plan to ensure that learning will continue throughout the year. This plan provides a robust framework that expands on the current HISD @ H.O.M.E. at-home learning platform and provides additional guidance and support for any future extended periods of closure.

### Will parents have the option to extend virtual instruction?

Yes. Parents may elect to have their children continue to participate in virtual instruction for a portion of the year or the entire school year.

### What will be required from parents who decide to continue remote instruction?

Parents choosing this option must attend a virtual class outlining expectations and sign an agreement committing to virtual learning for the semester.

### What information will be used to determine whether to keep or push back the target date?

The district will remain in close contact with federal, state and local health and education officials and make necessary adjustments to the target dates for in-person instruction if COVID-19 conditions change.

### What is the plan for return of school staff members to campuses?

The first day for HISD teachers is August 24. Teachers will report virtually. All other district employees will be notified by their direct supervisor on the date they will be expected to return to the office.

### What safety protocols will be in place at district schools and facilities?

Once in-person instruction resumes, safety protocols will include requiring all HISD employees, students, and visitors to undergo entry screenings, wear face coverings, wash hands regularly, and practice physical distancing. The district will provide enough hand soap, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant to accommodate frequent cleaning of high-touch areas. Additionally, it will be mandatory for nurses, custodial staff, food service workers, and special education staff to wear gloves. HISD will adopt flexible attendance policies so students and staff aren't penalized for staying home when they are sick, have a sick family member, or have been exposed to someone outside the household who is sick.

### Will visitors on school campuses be limited?

Schools should limit visitors and assign a team to notify their communities of the updated visitation procedures.

### What should classrooms look like to ensure physical distancing measures are in place?

Classrooms must be reconfigured to ensure physical distancing, with student-teacher ratios capped at one teacher for every 10 students. Student assemblies will be held virtually. All campus-based employees and students must follow infection and high-touch area protocols. Schools should limit visitors and assign a team to notify their communities of the updated visitation procedures. Campuses must establish isolation areas for students and adults who are flagged during entry screening.

### How will physical distancing measures be ensured on school buses? Which students will be eligible for transportation?

Transportation Services will enhance cleaning protocols and implement physical distancing for all buses and buildings. Because physical distancing drastically reduces bus capacity, only special education, homeless, and eligible elementary school students will be transported for in-person classroom instruction. The department also will implement contingency plans for responding to student bus riders and bus drivers who develop a presumed or confirmed case of COVID-19.

### How often will schools be sanitized?

HISD Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations employees will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines regarding the cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection of district facilities. The district will provide enough hand soap, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant to accommodate frequent cleaning of high-touch areas.

### Will a student lose his/her magnet school placement if they choose virtual instruction?

No. A student will not lose their magnet school placement.

### How do parents obtain technology for their child(ren) during virtual learning?

Parents should contact their campus for technology needed for virtual learning.

### Will students be provided meals at school?

Once in-person instruction begins, Nutrition Services will provide breakfast, lunch, snacks, and afterschool suppers in classrooms for students engaged in in-person learning. Curbside meals will be available for students enrolled in virtual learning. Employees will continue to accommodate student health, medical, and special dietary needs, as well as allergy concerns. Department employees will follow public health hygiene recommendations and enhance custodial cleaning and surface disinfection.



### What will extracurricular and fine arts activities look like in the fall?

Extracurricular activities will follow the same safety practices employed on school campuses during the school day. School-based extracurricular activities will resume when in-person instruction begins. Face coverings must be made available to and worn by students and teachers during all extracurricular activities. Student sporting events are tentatively scheduled for the fall, but HISD Athletics will adjust plans as needed if COVID-19 conditions change. Fine Arts will reduce class sizes and maintain guidelines for physical distancing. Students will not be allowed to share personal belongings, equipment or other items, including computers and uniforms. Dance students must have their own water bottle, hand sanitizer, mask, dance shoes, and/or dance bag.

### Will any field trips take place in the fall?

Field trips for all grade levels will not be held until the district receives guidance that it has been deemed safe for students to visit non-HISD facilities.

### How will grading take place?

Students enrolled in remote instruction follow the same grading guidelines as in-person instruction. Teachers receive support and guidance on effective grading practices to ensure that grading guidelines are followed in both instructional models. Teachers will post grades on a weekly basis.

Courses taken as Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment will be subject to the grading policies of the Institution of Higher Education (IHE) issuing the college credit.

Additional information on grades:

- Grades will be taken during each grading cycle of the 2020-2021 school year.
- All cycle grades will be used in the calculation of the final average for any class.
- Final exams will be administered for all high school credit courses.
- Teachers will be recording grades, which will be available for parents and students to access through the HISD Connect Parent Portal (log-in information will be provided by campuses).

### How will attendance be taken?

Students who are engaged in daily learning as defined below will be considered “present” and will not be marked absent.

- Participation in the HUB, the HISD Learning Management System and completion of independent reading and work assignments.
- Interaction with teacher via Microsoft Teams as part of live or small group instruction, and/or submission of assignment(s) via the HUB.
- When unable to submit via the HUB, students can submit assignments via emails, photos, phone conferences or other forms of documentation.

Students who have not met at least one of the three requirements above by the following times will be marked absent:

- Elementary schools - 2:30 p.m.
- Middle & K-8 schools – 3:30 p.m.
- High schools – 3:30 p.m.

Absences can be resolved if the student engages in daily learning assigned by their teachers by 11:59 p.m. that same day. Parents and students will receive absence notifications via School Messenger after 6:00 p.m. each day and will be reminded of the opportunity to resolve that day’s absence.

If a student is engaged in remote learning and completes the entire weeks’ worth of learning activities on Monday and does not log in for the remainder of the week, he/she will be marked “present” on Monday **only** and counted “absent” for Tuesday-Friday.

State law and Houston ISD Policy still require students to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus (face-to-face) attendance in satisfying this requirement.



# RECONNECT SAFELY RETURN STRONG

REOPENING PLAN FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR



## PARENT GUIDE

As HISD navigates the COVID-19 health crisis, the district will utilize a model of remote and face-to-face instruction for the fall. Here is a timeline of key dates and important information:



**SEPTEMBER 8:** First day of school (Virtual only)

**OCTOBER 19:** Face-to-face instruction begins subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the city of Houston and recommendations from local, state, and federal health officials.\*



**SEPTEMBER 8 - JANUARY 29:** First semester of remote learning for students/parents who choose online-only instruction.

“  
**WHAT IF I WANT  
TO KEEP MY CHILD  
HOME LONGER?**”

Families who select virtual learning for the fall semester or the entire academic year, must attend a virtual class

outlining expectations and sign an agreement committing to remote learning.

\*Parents will have the option to choose remote instruction for the fall semester (through January 29) or entire school year (through June 11).



During remote learning, students will use the **HISD @ H.O.M.E.** learning platform to access classes and resources

**HoustonISD.org/Home**



### SAFETY FIRST

For the in-person classroom phase:

- **All HISD students and employees required** to undergo **temperature screenings** before entering an HISD building
- **Appropriate face coverings** and **routine handwashing** required, as well as adherence to **social distancing** protocols
- **Mandatory gloves** for nurses, custodial staff, food service workers, and special education staff

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The virtual model of instruction will enable HISD to monitor conditions across the city and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the health and safety of all students.

For more information please visit [HoustonISD.org/Reopening](https://HoustonISD.org/Reopening)

# HISD COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

## REOPENING FACT SHEET

### REMEMBER TO



**WEAR A  
FACE MASK**



**PRACTICE  
PHYSICAL DISTANCING**



**WASH HANDS  
REGULARLY**



**STAY HOME IF YOU  
ARE FEELING ILL**

### EMPLOYEES

- Review educational information and complete online training
- Follow public health guidelines
- Talk to supervisor for health issues and workplace concerns
- Stay home when sick
- Wear masks
- Adhere to physical distancing
- Follow directional signage
- Undergo daily screening and temperature check
- Wash hands regularly
- Hold meetings virtually
- Don't hold face-to-face meetings unless absolutely required — 10 person max

### STUDENTS

- Stay home when sick
- Wear masks during school and extracurricular activities
- Adhere to physical distancing
- Follow teacher instructions
- Undergo daily screening and temperature check
- Don't share classroom supplies or books

### SCHOOLS

- Reconfigure classrooms to ensure at least 6 feet of space between desks
- Minimize movement and contacts by keeping class in designated area
- Implement no-contact student pick-up and drop-off with extended and staggered times
- Don't allow parents or visitors on campus unless absolutely necessary

### SCHOOL BUSES

- Adhere to physical distancing
- Stay in seat and sit by the window
- Wear masks
- Use hand sanitizer
- Follow bus driver instructions
- Don't share seats

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Receive updates and new information at  
**HoustonISD.org/Reopening** and  
**HoustonISD.org/HealthAlerts**

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