

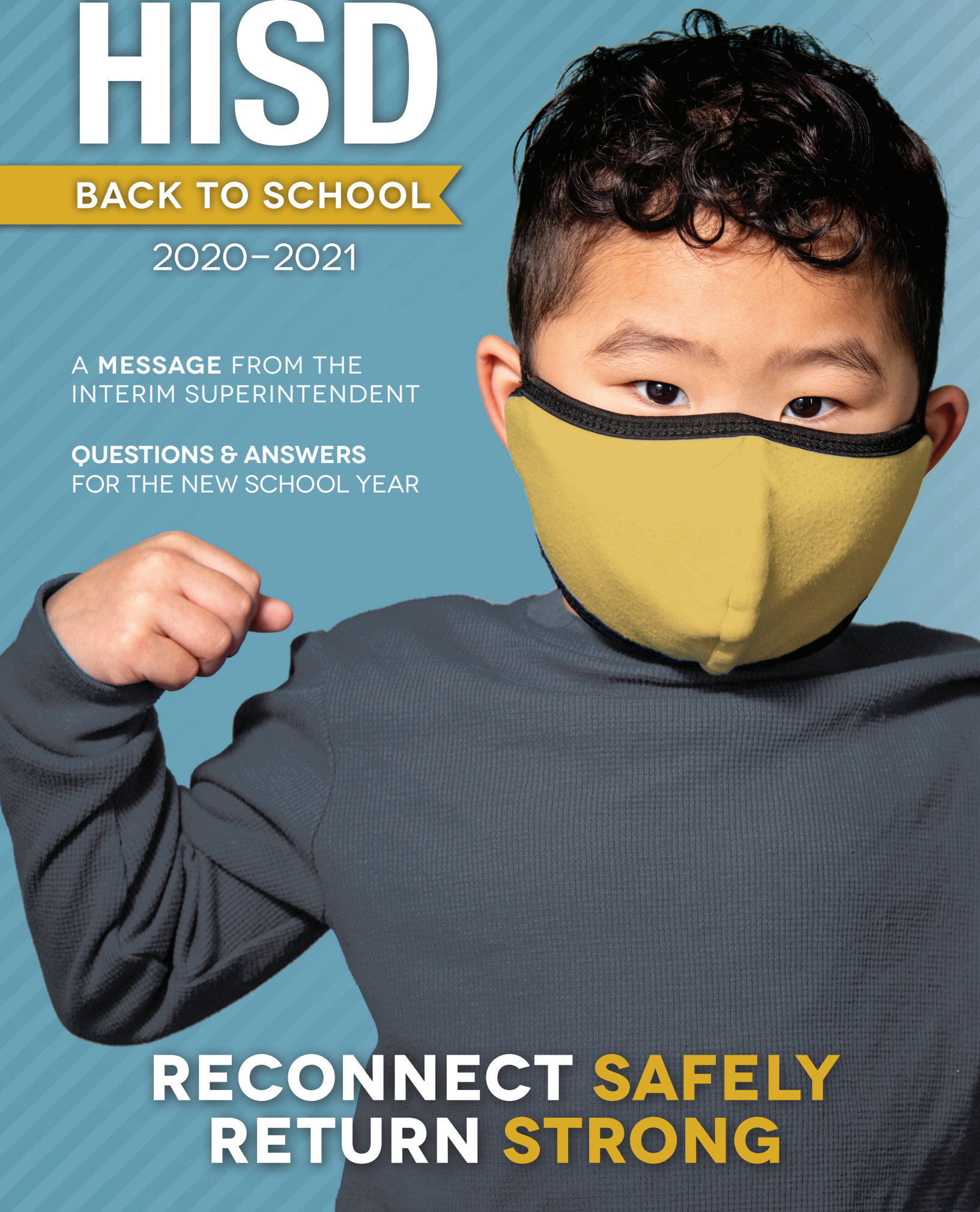
# HISD

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

2020–2021

A **MESSAGE** FROM THE  
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR



**RECONNECT SAFELY**  
**RETURN STRONG**



## SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



I hope you are as excited as I am to embark on a new adventure of learning for the 2020-2021 school year. It is our

year of flexibility as we prepare to Reconnect Safely and Return Strong.

With the health and safety of our students, families, and staff as our top priority, 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.

The decision to begin the 2020-2021 school year virtually and delay the start of the school year for two weeks was due to the rising number of positive COVID-19 cases in the area.

On Monday, October 19, 2020, face-to-face instruction for students will begin. This date is subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the City of

Houston and guidance from local, state, and federal health officials.

There also will be an option for parents to opt out of face-to-face instruction entirely for the fall semester and 2020-2021 school year. All parents will be asked to complete the 2020-2021 Parent Introduction to Virtual Learning Online Course by September 4. The course will be available on August 10.

I understand you may have questions about how the plan for 2020-2021 will impact you. To assist you, we have produced this helpful guide to the new school year. For more information and resources, please visit **HoustonISD.org/Reopening**.

I look forward to Reconnecting Safely and Returning Strong for the new year.

Sincerely,

**GRENITA F. LATHAN, PH.D.**  
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



All sessions will be offered virtually this school year to support parents and families in the education of their children, providing an introduction to district programs, community resources, and parent-engagement strategies. Parents can log in to any session!

**HoustonISD.org/ParentUniversity**

### SAVE THE DATES

- **Tuesday, Sept. 15**  
2020-2021 School Year 101
- **Tuesday, Oct. 20**  
Family Engagement
- **Tuesday, Nov. 17**  
Digital Citizenship
- **Tuesday, Jan. 19**  
School Level(s) Transition
- **Tuesday, Feb. 16**  
Non-Academic Supports Offered in HISD
- **Tuesday, April 20**  
Supporting Your Child's Social and Emotional Needs

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS INFO

As the district moves forward with virtual learning, students receiving special populations services will continue to be offered the technology, services, accommodations, and modifications as required by the student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and Section 504.

Parents of students served by special education programs will receive individualized support from a special education case manager to ensure their student's needs are met. Parents of Gifted and Talented students will continue to attend virtual GT Meetings and communicate with campus GT coordinators for GT services.

Additionally, the Social-Emotional Learning Department will continue to offer socioemotional support, including webinars in English and in Spanish for students, staff, and families focused on maintaining social and emotional health.

## PARENTS: FILL OUT THE SOCIOECONOMIC FORM

This form replaces the free and reduced-price lunch application and will be distributed at schools. It can also be downloaded at:

**HoustonISD.org/ParentForms**

**FILLING OUT THIS FORM HELPS OUR SCHOOLS GET THE FUNDING THEY NEED!**





## RECONNECT SAFELY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

In May 2020, HISD formed a Communicable Disease Plan (CDP) Task Force — a working group made up of employees, educators, parents, community members, and healthcare officials.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

STUDENTS

- Stay home when sick
- Wear masks during school and extracurricular activities
- Adhere to physical distancing

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

teachers to classrooms and employees to office workspaces while following public health guidelines and mitigating transmission of COVID-19.

The HISD Communicable Disease Plan outlines its recommendations — as well as accompanying procedures, protocol, challenges, and needs — for all facets of the country's seventh-largest school district. To learn more about the CDP, go to [HoustonISD.org/Reopening](https://HoustonISD.org/Reopening).

The task force was charged with reviewing guidance from local, state, and federal health and education officials, as well as feedback from HISD parent and teacher surveys, and then providing recommendations that prioritize health and safety.

The group worked diligently through June to identify ways HISD could return students and

## RETURN STRONG INSTRUCTIONAL CONTINUITY PLAN

In order to incorporate lessons learned and improve upon instructional practices utilized during last year's launch of HISD @ H.O.M.E., HISD's virtual learning approach, an Instructional Continuity Plan was developed to guide virtual instruction for the 2020-21 school year.

The goal of this plan is to provide a deeper level of guidance and support to parents, students, and staff members during periods of virtual instruction. During the first six weeks of 2020-21 school year, HISD will be implementing asynchronous learning. Asynchronous learning is an instructional experience in which students will be able to work at their own pace and teachers will be available to provide live support and intervention through a daily instructional support schedule.

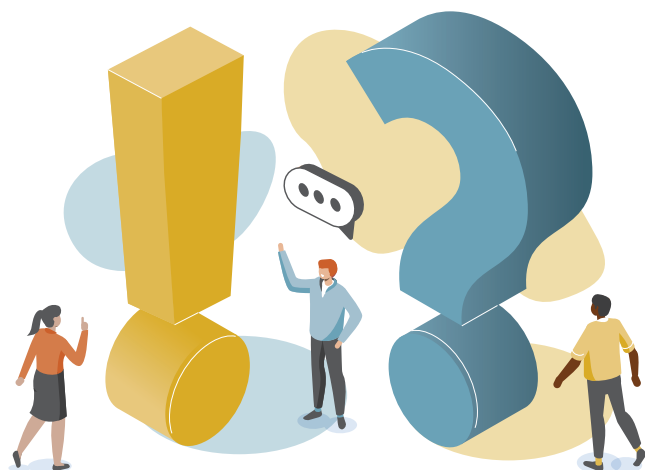
HISD will use strategies and best practices associated with virtual learning to design learning activities to meet the needs of the learner where they are. Microsoft Teams and The HISD Learning Management System, The Hub, will be utilized to provide instruction. For a full summary of the plan, please visit [HoustonISD.org/ICP](https://HoustonISD.org/ICP).



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

[HoustonISD.org/Home](https://HoustonISD.org/Home)

# TOP 5 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FOR 2020–2021



1

## 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.

2

## 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).

3

## 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.

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. Campuses must establish isolation areas for students and adults who are flagged during entry screening.

4

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

Transportation will be provided to special education, homeless, elementary and specialty school students. Service may also be provided to some students in middle school or who live along high-risk routes if resources are available. Bus capacity will be limited to 26 students, with one person per seat required to sit by the window. Students must wear masks, and drivers must wear masks, shields, and gloves. Upon boarding, students must sanitize their hands and scan their bus badge. Seats must be filled from the back to front and emptied from front to back to minimize contact. Four-to-six bus windows will be down whenever possible for air circulation.

5

## Will uniforms be required for the new school year?

HISD has announced the suspension of the student uniform policy for 2020-2021. If students already have uniforms and wish to wear them, they are still welcome to do so. Students will still be expected to follow the dress code specified by each individual campus.

Those guidelines can be found on each campus website. For more information about planning for the 2020-2021 school year, visit [HoustonISD.org/Reopening](https://HoustonISD.org/Reopening).



## REOPENING TIMELINE

### SEPTEMBER 8:

First day of school (Virtual only)

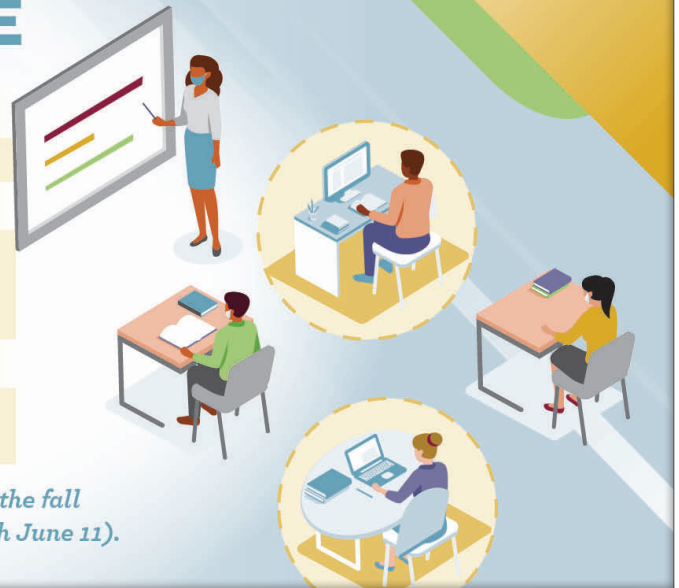
### OCTOBER 19:

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).*



## PARENTS: COMPLETE YOUR VIRTUAL LEARNING COURSE

All district parents are required to complete the 2020-2021 Parent Introduction to Virtual Learning Online Course. This course will outline student expectations, attendance, grading, and more.

Course is available at [HoustonISD.org/Reopening](https://HoustonISD.org/Reopening) and the deadline is September 4.

## GUN SAFETY AWARENESS

In HISD, ensuring the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We want schools to remain safe at all times so that productive academic instruction can occur. We all have an essential role to play in keeping our children safe from gun violence. As a district, we believe that our role is to educate parents about responsible storage of their firearms. We believe that gun safety starts at home and that proper gun storage is a critical component of keeping children safe. Texas state law imposes penalties on individuals who make a gun accessible to a child due to improper storage.

This year, all HISD parents will receive an acknowledgment form in first-day-of-school packets. The form outlines the law regarding making a firearm accessible to a child.

### PLEASE SIGN & RETURN TO YOUR CAMPUS

All parent forms are available at [HoustonISD.org/ParentForms](https://HoustonISD.org/ParentForms)

## REGISTER FOR CAMP SPARK



Get a jump-start on virtual learning at interactive academic enrichment camps!

**WHAT:** Camp Spark will provide students of all grade levels with FREE enrichment leading up to the first day of school — with engaging

activities in science, math, literacy, technology, and art.

**WHEN:** August 24 – September 4

**REGISTER:** [HoustonISD.org/CampSpark](https://HoustonISD.org/CampSpark)



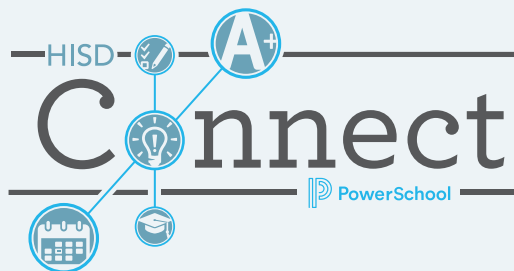
# HISD

@H.O.M.E.

**HOTLINE | 713-556-INFO (4636)**

**Monday through Friday from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.**

## PARENT PORTAL



**DID YOU KNOW?** The district will have a new Student Information System (SIS) for the 2020-2021 school year. **HISD Connect by PowerSchool** will include student contact, enrollment, and demographic information, as well as grades and online resources.

Parents will be given a unique code, or access ID, for each of their students and will be able to use those codes to set up an account to access their student's profiles through a new parent portal. Parents can contact their child's school for their access IDs. Check for updates at [HoustonISD.org/ParentPortal](https://HoustonISD.org/ParentPortal)

## SCHOOL MEALS FOR 2020-21



HISD's Fresh Bus produce distribution program will deliver student meals to families during the district's virtual-only first six weeks of school. The deliveries will complement the curbside student meal program,

which will continue throughout the school year for students enrolled in virtual learning.

**FRESH BUS:** Will deliver student breakfast and lunch daily to select community sites located throughout the district. Service begins Tuesday, Sept. 8, running until in-person instruction resumes.

**CURBSIDE STUDENT MEALS:** Offered at schools with at least 60 percent of enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (45 sites). Students at schools without curbside pickup may participate at neighboring sites.

**CLASSROOM MEALS:** Students opting to return for in-person instruction will be served individually wrapped breakfast, lunch, and snacks in the classroom. Dinner will be distributed after dismissal to students participating in the At Risk Afterschool Supper Program.

Cafeteria staff will wear masks and gloves while serving meals. Students must maintain physical distancing during all meal periods and may only remove masks to eat and drink.

For updates as program logistics are finalized, visit [HoustonISD.org/Nutrition](https://HoustonISD.org/Nutrition).

## ENROLL YOUR CHILD FOR FALL



- Enrollment for K-12 begins on August 17, 2020. More information: [HoustonISD.org/Enroll](https://HoustonISD.org/Enroll)
- PreK registration is underway. More information: [HoustonISD.org/PreK](https://HoustonISD.org/PreK)

## HISD HUB HOW-TO

The HUB is a K-12 online teaching and learning platform that provides students and parents access to digital curriculum materials, communications with teachers, digital classwork and more. Access the HUB at [HoustonISD.org/HUB](https://HoustonISD.org/HUB)

For a quick how-to guide on the HUB, go to [HoustonISD.org/HUBHowTo](https://HoustonISD.org/HUBHowTo)



Student Login to the HUB & Digital Resources



**HISD**  
@H.O.M.E.



**tv**





★ TUNE IN TO ★

U-verse Ch. 99 | Comcast Ch. 18 | [HoustonISD.org/LiveTV](https://HoustonISD.org/LiveTV)

# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2020-2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

<b>July 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
<b>August 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
<b>September 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30						
<b>October 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
<b>November 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30						
<b>December 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
<b>January 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
<b>February 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28						
<b>March 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
<b>April 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30						
<b>May 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
<b>June 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30						

<b>Key</b>	<b>Holidays</b>		
	Holidays	September 7, 2020	Labor Day
	Teacher Preparation Days (no students)	September 28, 2020	Fall Holiday (Students Only)
	Teacher Service Days (no students)	November 23-27, 2020	Thanksgiving
	Enrichment Opportunities*	December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021	Winter Break
	<i><b>August 24-September 3 is offered virtually.</b></i>	January 18, 2021	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
<b>School Day Start and End Times</b>		March 15-19, 2021	Spring Break
7:30-3:00	Elementary	March 29, 2021	Chavez-Huerta Day
8:30-4:00	K-8 and Middle School	April 2, 2021	Spring Holiday
8:30-4:10	High School	May, 31 2021	Memorial Day
<b>Significant Dates</b>		<b>Grading Periods</b>	
August 24, 2020	Teachers report to work	Sept 8-Oct 16	28 days
September 8, 2020	First day of school	Oct 19-Dec 4	29 days
January 29, 2021	Last day of first semester	Dec 7-Jan 28	28 days
February 1, 2021	First day of second semester	Feb 1-March 12	29 days
June 11, 2021	Last day of school for students	March 22-April 30	28 days
June 14, 2021	Last day for teachers	May 3-June 11	29 days
		<b>Report Card Dates</b>	
			October 23, 2020
			December 11, 2020
			February 5, 2021
			March 26, 2021
			May 7, 2021
			June 11, 2021 (ES/MS)
			June 18, 2021 (HS)
<b>Last updated on 07/17/20</b>			

## STAY CONNECTED

| **WEB** | [HoustonISD.org](http://HoustonISD.org)



| **LIKE** | [Facebook.com/HoustonISD](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonISD)

| **FOLLOW** | [Twitter.com/HoustonISD](https://twitter.com/HoustonISD)



| **ALERTS** | Text "YES" to 68453

## SAFETY FIRST



What safety measures will be in place at campuses when face-to-face instruction resumes in October?

### 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

## IMMIGRATION & YOUR RIGHTS

HISD remains committed to educating every student – regardless of their immigration status. No HISD personnel will ever report a student's immigration status to authorities. Available resources can be found at:

[HoustonISD.org/CommunityResources](http://HoustonISD.org/CommunityResources)

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



Due to required physical distancing, HISD school bus service will resume on a limited basis

as students begin to return to classrooms for in-person learning in October.

Bus capacity will be limited to 26 students, with all riders required to sit in their own seat by the window. Students will be required to wear a mask while on the bus, sanitize their hands upon boarding, and maintain physical distance at all times, including loading and off-loading.

All buses will undergo cleaning and sanitizing upon completion of each route, as well as an additional deep cleaning and disinfection each week. Additionally, all buses will be equipped with designated supplies, including personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, towels, and first aid kit.

Transportation will be provided to special education, homeless, elementary and specialty school students. Service may also be provided to some students in middle school or who live along high-risk routes if resources are available.

For updates as logistics are finalized, visit [HoustonISD.org/Transportation](http://HoustonISD.org/Transportation).