

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM  
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
**GRENITA LATHAN**

HISD Community:

I have important news to share with you regarding the district's health and safety protocols. Based on an ongoing review of local public health conditions and vaccine distribution efforts, we are updating the HISD Communicable Disease Plan (CDP), which governs our pandemic protocols.

Effective immediately, all school playgrounds will be opened and recess permitted, with masks required for both. Additionally, in-person, outdoor graduations will be permitted this spring with an event safety plan and limited attendance based on available capacity with physical distancing. Select end-of-year school celebrations for students only also will be permitted with an event safety plan.

Masks and physical distancing will continue to be required in all schools, buildings, and buses as outlined in the CDP.

The updates were provided by HISD's CDP committee. The group meets regularly to review conditions and guidance from health and education officials and provide operational recommendations prioritizing health and safety.

#### **April 2021 Committee Recommendations**

- Maintain masks and physical distancing protocols in schools and buses as outlined in the CDP and continue sanitization in high-touch areas every two hours through the spring.
- Continue entry screenings, including temperature checks and employee self-screenings, through summer school.
- Open HISD playgrounds and permit recess this spring, with masks required.
- Allow in-person, outdoor graduations this spring with an approved event safety plan and limited attendance based on available capacity with physical distancing.
- Allow field days, promotion ceremonies, awards banquets, and other school celebrations this spring for students only with an approved event safety plan.
- Maintain current safety protocols for campus-based extracurricular activities, non-essential visitors, and facility rentals.
- Continue curbside and community food distributions for students and families.
- Wait to establish a timeline for relaxing masks and physical distancing protocols until more data can be collected and reviewed over the coming months.

With safety at the heart of our decision making, we have accepted all recommendations. Changes are effective immediately, and the [CDP](#) has been updated. We will continue to monitor conditions and update protocols as needed.

We appreciate your continued patience and support. Should you have any questions, please contact your school office or immediate supervisor.

Sincerely,



Grenita F. Lathan, Ph.D.  
HISD Interim Superintendent