



Hughes Springs

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Instructional Options 2020-2021 School Year

Please keep in mind, updated guidance is coming from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) daily. The information in this document reflects the latest guidance we have as of the date at the top of the page. It is always subject to change as new guidance is released by TEA.

General Information for Parents

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade level. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.
- Any parent can request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school district that offers such instruction.
- If a parent chooses virtual instruction and wants their child to switch to on-campus instruction or vice-versa, they can do so, however school systems are allowed to limit these changes to occur only at the end of a grading period.
- If a parent requests virtual instruction and the school does not offer it, the parent may enroll in another school that does offer it for transfer students.
- HSISD does not intend to accept new transfers who request a fully virtual option.

What instructional options will HSISD offer during the 2020-2021 school year?

HSISD will offer 2 instructional options for 2020-2021, depending on grade level –

- 1) On-Campus Instruction – Students will attend school on the HSISD campuses and receive instruction from HSISD staff members. This option is available for grades Pre-Kindergarten – 12th Grade.
- 2) Virtual Instruction – Students will be enrolled in HSISD and receive their instruction virtually. This option is available for grades 3rd – 12th Grade.

See the **HSISD Board Letter Regarding 2020-2021 Instructional Offerings** on our “Back to School” webpage - for additional information.

Who is eligible to enroll in virtual instruction through HSISD?

Any HSISD student enrolled in grades 3rd – 12th during the 2020-2021 school year, with the following exception–

- HSISD is *not required* to provide virtual instruction to a student who was enrolled in a private school, including homeschool, during the 2019-2020 school year.

If your student was enrolled in private school, including homeschool, last year and wishes to attend HSISD during the 2020-2021 school year, they must attend through the **on-campus** instruction method.

How do I enroll my child in virtual instruction for the 1st 9 weeks & is there a deadline?

You must complete and submit the “Virtual Instruction Commitment Form”.

The completed form must be submitted to the campus principal by **Monday, August 3, 2020 at 12:00 pm.**

Copies of this form are available in the office of each campus and posted on our “Back to School” webpage.

How long am I committed to the method of instruction I choose at the start of the year?

If you choose to enroll your child in virtual school, you are committed to that method of instruction for the complete grading period, which is 9 weeks.

By the same token, if you choose to enroll your child in on-campus instruction, you are committed to that method of instruction for the complete grading period, which is 9 weeks.

**See next question for deadlines to enroll/unenroll in virtual instruction.*

The following deadlines apply to inform the school of your intent to enroll or unenroll from virtual instruction. You must talk to the campus principal to enroll / unenroll your child.

Deadlines to inform the school of your intent to enroll your student in virtual instruction -

1st 9 Weeks (August 13, 2020 – October 9, 2020) – **Deadline is Monday, August 3, 2020 @ 12:00 pm**

2nd 9 Weeks (October 13, 2020 – December 22, 2020) – Deadline is Monday, September 28, 2020

3rd 9 Weeks (January 7, 2020 – March 11, 2020) – Deadline is Wednesday, December 9, 2020

4th 9 Weeks (March 22, 2020 – May 21, 2020) – Deadline is Monday, March 1, 2021

Deadlines to inform the school of your intent to unenroll your student in virtual instruction & return to on-campus instruction –

2nd 9 Weeks (October 13, 2020 – December 22, 2020) – Deadline is Monday, September 28, 2020

3rd 9 Weeks (January 7, 2020 – March 11, 2020) – Deadline is Wednesday, December 9, 2020

4th 9 Weeks (March 22, 2020 – May 21, 2020) – Deadline is Monday, March 1, 2021

Will the school provide a computer for my student if I enroll them in virtual instruction?

The school will only provide computers for students in grades 9th – 12th who enroll in virtual instruction.

This is consistent with our practices and policy we have for our on-campus students.

TEA has announced they may have some funding to help schools get additional devices for virtual students and HSISD is reviewing the information.

However, at this time, we only plan to provide devices as outlined above.

Therefore, if you plan for your student(s) to start school in virtual instruction, you need to have your own device(s).

What kind of a device will I need for my student if I enroll them in virtual instruction?

A cell phone is not going to be sufficient for your child to successfully complete virtual instruction. Ideally, you will need a laptop or desktop computer.

If you have multiple children in your home, you will need multiple devices in order for each child to meet the daily attendance requirements.

Will the school provide internet for my student if I enroll them in virtual instruction?

No.

Will internet be required for students enrolled in virtual instruction?

Yes.

For a student to be successfully enrolled in virtual instruction and to be able to meet the attendance/engagement requirements outlined later in this document, the student must have reliable access to high-speed internet daily.

Will I need a printer if I enroll my child in virtual instruction?

The ability to print would be extremely helpful, as there may be supplemental materials/notes that can be downloaded to assist your child. However, it would not be required.

Will my student be able to participate in extracurricular activities (UIL Academics, UIL Athletics, Clubs, Organizations, Cheerleading, UIL Band, Starz, Field Trips, etc.) while enrolled in virtual instruction?

No.

HSISD has elected to exclude students, who are enrolled in virtual instruction, from all extracurricular activities.

Students would also be excluded from enrolling in courses that are open only to students participating in that particular extracurricular activity – such as band and athletics.

See the **HSISD Board Resolution Regarding Extracurricular Participation for Virtual Students** on our “Back to School” webpage for additional information.

What form of virtual instruction will HSISD provide?

HSISD plans to provide **asynchronous instruction** as described in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidance. According to TEA, asynchronous instruction is –

- Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time
- Instruction where students learn from instruction that is not being delivered in-person or in real-time
- Instruction that includes various forms of digital and online learning, such as pre-recorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own. There may also be pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper.

There may also be periodically required meetings or live instruction with teachers. Also, please see the information below regarding state assessments, secondary electives and times where virtual students can/will be required to come on campus.

If my student is enrolled in virtual instruction, are they required to take the STARR & End of Course Assessments?

Yes.

Your child will also be required to be present on an HSISD campus the day the assessments are administered, as they cannot be administered virtually.

High school students are required to pass their End of Course exams to graduate from high school / receive their diploma.

What are the grading requirements / guidelines for students enrolled in virtual instruction?

According to the Texas Education Agency, “grading policies for virtual instruction must be consistent with the LEA’s grading policies for on-campus assignments”.

We will use the same grading guidelines that are used for on-campus instruction. Those guidelines are posted on our website, www.hsisd.net. The guidelines are located on the “Back to School” webpage.

Students in virtual instruction will receive progress reports and report cards on the same schedule as students attending school on-campus.

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If my child is enrolled in virtual instruction, can he/she be required to come on campus to complete certain requirements?

Yes.

Students may be required to come on campus to complete TPRI reading assessments, Dibels reading assessments, state assessments, testing for special education, etc.

See question above regarding assessments. See question later in the document addressing electives for junior high and high school students.

What will the student attendance requirements be for a student enrolled in virtual instruction?

Per TEA guidelines, students enrolled in virtual instruction are subject to the same attendance requirements as students enrolled in on-campus instruction.

If HSISD is scheduled to be in school, virtual students must meet engagement requirement on that day to be considered present. **See the 2020-2021 HSISD School Calendar posted on our webpage.**

Work started or completed on days that school is not in session (ex: weekends and school holidays), **will not count** towards meeting daily engagement requirements.

Truancy laws will apply to these students if they fail to attend school virtually.

Does the 90/10 minimum student attendance for class credit rule apply to students enrolled in virtual instruction?

The minimum attendance requirement for class credit (Texas Education Code 25.092) will still apply. Students must attend 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Virtual attendance* will be taken daily and will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance.

Remember, this applies to each course you are enrolled in. You must be marked “present” in each course you are enrolled in 90% of the days we are in school to receive credit for that course.

**See question below for what daily engagements requirements a student enrolled in virtual instruction must meet to be considered “present” for a school day.*

Example: If my student is enrolled in virtual instruction and completes all his/her assignments for the week on Monday and Tuesday, is he/she considered present for the whole week?

No.

In accordance with TEA guidelines, engagement criteria must be met **on a daily basis for each class**. For the scenario described above, the student would be considered “present” on Monday and Tuesday and “absent” on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**See question below for what daily engagement requirements a student enrolled in virtual instruction must meet to be considered “present” for a school day.*

Example: If my student does all his/her math assignments for the week on Monday, does all his/her science assignments for the week on Tuesday, does all his/her social studies assignments for the week on Wednesday, does all his/her English assignments for the week on Thursday and does all his/her electives assignments on Friday...are they considered present for the whole week for each class since they completed all his/her assignments?

No.

They would be marked “present” on Monday for Math, but absent in all other subjects.

They would be marked “present” on Tuesday for science, but absent in all other subjects.

So forth, and so on.

**See question below for what daily engagements requirements a student enrolled in virtual instruction must meet to be considered “present” for a school day.*

What are the daily engagement requirements a student enrolled in virtual instruction must meet to be considered “present” for a school day/subject?

Please keep in mind the definition of actively engaged will evolve over the next few weeks as the Texas Education Agency releases more guidance to schools. We have been told some of this guidance is still weeks away, so you may see changes to the information below.

Active engagement may include any combination of the following, but keep in mind, the student must complete at least one of the following in EACH course he/she is enrolled in to be marked “present” in that course for the day–

- Completion of a full lesson, including any assignments attached to that lesson
- OR**

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- Student – Teacher interactions regarding the course. This could be in the form of tutoring, direct teaching, redoing, or reteaching of assignments
OR
- Completion of an assessment (test) in that course
OR
- Completion of an “on campus” activity in that course (this mainly applies to high school electives)
OR
- 25 minutes “actively engaged” in course content. Minutes of active engagement are recorded in the Learning Management System. If you complete an assessment, turn in an assignment or complete tutoring, the 25-minute threshold is not necessary. However, if you are only watching lesson videos, the 25 minutes of engagement is necessary.

For a student in grades 6th – 12th you should estimate that he/she would spend roughly 240 minutes (4 hours) per day in virtual instruction.

For a student in grades 3rd – 5th, you should estimate that he/she spend roughly 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in virtual instruction.

For Example:

John Doe is in high school and is enrolled in 6 courses – Algebra, Biology, English, US History, Marketing and Law Enforcement.

Monday

John completes two algebra lessons & submits the required assignments	60 minutes
John receives algebra tutoring from his teacher	15 minutes
John completes a short biology lesson	25 minutes
John completes an assessment in US History over last week’s lessons	30 minutes
John completes a law enforcement lesson and submits the required assignments	45 minutes
John completes a marketing assignment & emails the teacher about a project	50 minutes
John emails in his English essay	2 minutes

John met the definition of “active engagement” in each course. Therefore, John is marked “present” in all six courses he is enrolled in.

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Tuesday

John completes 3 algebra lessons & submits the required assignments	60 minutes
John complete a biology lesson	20 minutes
John receives tutoring in biology	35 minutes
John completes an assessment in U.S. history over last week’s lessons	25 minutes
John completes a law enforcement lesson and submits the required assignments	45 minutes
John completes a marketing assignment & emails the teacher about a project	60 minutes
John did nothing for his English class	

John met “active engagement” in most courses; however, he did not meet the “active engagement” for English. Therefore, John is marked present in 5 of his courses, but marked “absent” in English.

Does at-home, parent-led instruction count towards meeting daily attendance/engagement requirements?

No.

In accordance with TEA guidelines, parent-led instruction will not count towards satisfying these requirements.

Will all core (foundation) courses be offered virtually?

Yes, these courses will be offered in an entirely virtual format.

Core (foundation) courses include math, science, English, reading, social studies, foreign languages, fine arts, speech, health, physical education

We will not offer pre-honors or honors courses virtually. Students who wish to enroll in those courses will be required to attend the course on-campus. Students must also meet the enrollment criteria for these pre-honors and honors courses.

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What electives will be available for junior high and high school students who choose virtual instruction?

Electives could fall into three categories:

- 1) Electives courses that are 100% virtual
- 2) Elective courses that have certain coursework requirements that can only reasonably be completed in an on-campus (in-person) setting, even though some components of the course could be taught virtually. For these courses, student will complete much of the learning online, but will be required to come on campus to demonstrate skills required for course credit. Failure to complete the on-campus requirements could cause the student to not be awarded course credit. The schedule for the on-campus requirements will be determined by the school district.
- 3) Elective courses that require a student to be on campus. To enroll in these courses, students must attend the class on-campus each day at the time it is scheduled by the school district.

Most electives will be in category 1 & category 3.

If your plan is for your child to remain fully virtual, we encourage you to choose electives in which the course requirements can be satisfied in a fully virtual setting.

*We are currently working on a list of the electives that will fall in each category. We will release the lists, as soon as they are ready, on our "Back to School" webpage.

If my child chooses an "on campus" elective, will the district provide transportation to and from school each day for that course?

No.

Transportation for students enrolled in virtual instruction will not be provided unless it is documented in the student's IEP paperwork for the student to access their Special Education services.

Can my high school student complete dual-credit courses virtually?

Yes, your child can complete dual credit courses virtually that are provided by Northeast Texas Community College in a fully virtual format.

Virtual students will have to meet the same criteria as on-campus students to enroll in dual credit courses.

Deadline for enrollment in these dual credit courses is set by Northeast Texas Community College.

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Will my student & I be required to attend an orientation on virtual instruction prior to beginning instruction?

Yes.

Students and parents/guardians will be required to attend an orientation.

This orientation will most likely occur in the evening or on a Saturday. More information will be released later.

Will there be a teacher who my child & I can email with questions and contact for tutoring?

Yes.

At the elementary & junior high, we anticipate this will be an HSISD teacher.

At the high school, we anticipate this will be a teacher who is contracted through our Learning Management System.

Will there be an administrator who my child & I can email with questions and concerns?

Yes, there will be a designated HSISD administrator to oversee daily operations of virtual instruction.

You can also contact the campus principal.

Will courses taken in virtual instruction be included in GPA calculations and class rank for high school students?

Courses taken by students participating in virtual instruction will be included in calculating GPA and class rank in accordance with board policy EIC (Local).

What happens after I officially submit my “Virtual Instruction Commitment Form” to the campus principal?

Our principals and counselors will re-confirm course selections with all students who submit the Virtual Instruction Commitment Form by the deadline.

They will also provide you with information about the mandatory orientation you and your child will need to attend.

Next, our virtual learning team will work to get your child set up in our learning management system & ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Finally, you will attend the mandatory orientation. Once that is done, your child is ready to learn.

Will students who receive special services (Special Education, speech therapy, dyslexia, ESL, etc.) receive services via virtual learning?

Yes. More information will be available at a later date.

What Learning Management Systems will HSISD be using?

We plan to use Edgenuity's Courseware product from students in Grades 6th – 12th. We are still deciding on a product for Grades 3rd – 5th.

Do I need to complete online registration in Skyward Family Access if I plan to enroll my child in virtual instruction?

Yes. All HSISD students must complete online registration in Skyward Family Access.

Are immunizations required for students enrolled in virtual instruction?

Yes, at this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements for students.

Will lunches be provided for virtual students?

No.

If you are considering virtual instruction for your student, we ask that you please review the document "Questions for Parents/Guardians to Consider Regarding Virtual Instruction" that is available on our "Back to School" webpage.

Remember, for your student to start the year in virtual instruction, you need to turn in the "Virtual Instruction Commitment Form" to the campus principal by 12:00 pm on Monday, August 3, 2020. This form is available in our campus offices and on our "Back to School" webpage. If the form is not received by that time, your child will need to attend on-campus the 1st 9 weeks.

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