



Hughes Springs
 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024

**Return to In-Person Instruction
 & Continuity of Services Plan**

This plan replaces the “Health Guidelines” that were in place for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Original Plan Approval July 27, 2021
 Updated September 7, 2021
 Reviewed December 15, 2021
 Reviewed June 13, 2022
 Reviewed August 4, 2022
 Updated January 25, 2023
Updated August 2023

This document is in line with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Public Health Planning Guidance dated August 1, 2022.

Please note: Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential change, and these guidelines may be modified as needed. We will post updates on our website, social media accounts and

send emails to parents if changes occur. The plan will be reviewed periodically through our District Site Based Team Meetings, which are open to the public.

The Texas Education Agency recently announced the availability of \$11.2 billion in federal funding made available to school districts through ESSER III (ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief) under the American Rescue Plan. This is a substantial sum of money, though amounts vary significantly from district to district.

The Hughes Springs ISD website will be used to communicate with our staff, parents, and community members about the ESSER III funds. ESSER III funds are federal funds sent to the states to help cover costs associated with learning loss due to COVID-19 and the cost of online instruction, facilities improvements, and the pandemic.

Hughes Springs ISD is proud to have offered the opportunity for in-person instruction for all students during the 2020-21 school year. Thanks to the support of our faculty, staff, students, and community, we developed our return to school plan in the summer of 2020. We persevered throughout the 2020-2021 year, despite the occasional setback, to keep our students in school!

For the 2021-22 & 2022-23 school year, HSISD will continue to provide full in-person instruction, after school activities, and extracurricular programs. This declaration of commitment to providing the best environment for our students, is meant to satisfy the requirements for accepting additional funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

The top priorities of Hughes Springs ISD are the safety and academic success of all students.

As HSISD continues to provide in person learning, protocols, and information for parents have been updated for the 2021-22 & 2022-23 school year. These protocols, addressing CDC & TEA recommendations, will be revisited every 6 months or as needed to address any changes.

ESSER III funds are to be utilized for safely opening and operating for in-person learning according to the CDC guidance. The funds will address the academic impact of lost instructional time through implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning, after school tutoring and intervention programs.

HSISD ensures that the interventions to be implemented will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students

disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, English language learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

We will closely monitor the COVID-19 cases in our district and our area and adjust our protocols as necessary. As always, all plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.

Now, more than ever, we must all do our part to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Part I: COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols

HSISD will implement the following practices to help mitigate the likelihood of a COVID-19 spread inside the school.

In this document, the word visitor(s) refers to any person who does not work for Hughes Springs ISD or who is not an enrolled student. All parents/guardians are considered visitors.

Screenings

Teachers & Staff must ensure they do not come to school if they are lab-confirmed with COVID-19 or if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 after a known exposure/close contact.

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 or if the child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 after a known exposure/close contact.

DO NOT send your child to school if they are running a fever. If your child has been running a fever, they must be 24 hours fever free (without the use of fever reducing medicines) before returning to school!

Signs & Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough

- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Standard Classroom Procedures

- Hand sanitizing stations are in all classrooms.
- Access to, and frequent use of, disinfecting products to sanitize commonly touched surfaces
- Social distancing to the maximum extent possible
- Frequent scheduled hand washing / sanitizing when social distancing is not fully possible
- Frequent reminders of proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Masks / Face Coverings

Current Texas guidelines, Governor's Executive Order GA-36, states that school systems cannot require students and staff to wear a mask.

However, individuals are free to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Students who participate in clinicals through our Health Science Program will be required to follow the protocols of the nursing home or hospital while they are completing their clinical hours.

Hand Washing / Sanitizing

Hand sanitizer will be available for use in all HSISD classrooms, offices, and other common areas. It will also be available at the main entrances to the campuses.

Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to wash & sanitize their hands frequently.

Recommended handwashing upon the return from outdoors, before eating, after eating, and following restroom breaks.

Cleaning/Sanitizing of Commonly Touched Surfaces

Commonly touched surfaces include, but are not limited to doorknobs, desks, common tables, keyboards, etc.

Our custodial staff will increase their cleaning and sanitation of commonly touched surfaces.

Our cafeteria staff will increase their cleaning and sanitation of commonly touched surfaces.

Classroom and office staff will have easy access to disinfecting sprays and will frequently sanitize shared working surfaces and objects.

Where age appropriate, students will participate in the disinfecting process by helping wipe surfaces the teacher has sprayed with disinfectant. This has been a common practice in HSISD in years past, especially during flu season, so many of the students are used to it, and it has been effective for us.

Increased Airflow / Fresh Air

We have installed fresh air systems and air purifiers throughout the district.

Weather permitting, physical education classes will be held outdoors, rather than inside.

Weather permitting, elementary and junior high students will have recess time outside.

We also have several new “outdoor classroom” areas available for use by our staff and students.

Water Fountains

Water fountains will not be available for student use.

All students are encouraged to bring bottled water or a reusable water bottle to school each day.

Drink refilling stations will be available in lieu of water fountains.

Cafeteria Cleaning and Sanitation

Our cafeteria staff will increase their cleaning and sanitation of commonly touched surfaces.

Our cafeteria will continue to follow all SERV Safe and health department guidelines while preparing and serving meals.

Visiting Your Child's Classroom

Classroom visits will be limited to designated days/events – class parties, etc. Information regarding designated days/events will be communicated by the campuses.

All visitors are required to check into the main office and must present a valid, state issued photo ID.

Eating Lunch with Your Child

Visitors to the cafeteria during lunch will be limited to school designated special occasions. We will send out notifications to parents to advertise these special occasions.

Checking Your Child Out During the School Day

We ask that you check your child out **by 2:45 pm**, if you need them before the regular dismissal of school.

Setting Up a Conference with a Principal, Counselor, Teacher or Other School Employee

If you need to have a conference or speak with an HSISD employee, we ask that you please call ahead of time and schedule an appointment. You can also email the employee or campus principal to schedule an appointment.

We do understand at times there are emergency situations, and an appointment is not possible. However, those situations are few and far between.

All visitors are required to check into the main office and must present a valid, state issued photo ID.

Forgotten Items

Apart from glasses and medication, we can provide students with any item they may have left at home or provide accommodations to help them get through the day without that item.

Therefore, we will not accept forgotten items, as these are not “essential to school operations,” and we are trying to limit visitors to our buildings to decrease the disruptions to student’s instructional time.

If your child forgets his/her lunch, just call the office, and let us know. We will make sure he/she has something to eat. We will not accept food deliveries. **We can make it work for one day without the item your child forgot! If your child forgets glasses or medication, just call the campus office.**

Outside Food

If your child wants outside food (from home or a restaurant), they must bring it to school with them at the start of the school day.

Outside food **cannot** be brought to the student in the cafeteria, in the parking lot before lunch or to the campus office. Deliveries from restaurants will also not be accepted.

If your child forgets his/her lunch, just call the campus office, and let us know. We will make sure he/she is provided with a tray from the cafeteria.

Students **cannot** bring outside food to share with other students. For example – pizzas, cupcakes, birthday cake, etc.

Entering Buildings in the Morning/ Afternoon Release of Students /Dismissal

Detailed information will be sent out by each campus.

Buses

When possible, windows will be opened to allow for outside air to circulate in the bus.

Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each use. Bus drivers will keep daily seating charts, as has been our practice for several years. Hand sanitizer is available for students on each

bus.

Car-Rider Lines

Detailed information will be sent out by each campus before the start of school.

We ask that you please remain in your vehicle when dropping off / picking up your student.

Walk-Ups at Elementary

Walk-ups will no longer be allowed at elementary. Parents will **not** be permitted to stand at the entrances and along the sidewalks to pick up their kids in the afternoons.

We ask that you use our designated car rider lines.

Pre-Kindergarten

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, both four-year-old Pre-Kindergarten classes will be located on the Hughes Springs Elementary Campus.

Extracurricular Activities

HSISD will follow any guidance issued by the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

Homeschooled students are not permitted to participate in UIL events for Hughes Springs ISD.

Fever, Vomiting and Diarrhea

Students who have a fever, are vomiting or have diarrhea should not be sent to school.

Students who are experiencing these symptoms should stay home until the following conditions are met:

- 24 hours have passed since the last bout of vomiting or diarrhea
- The student has been fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications.

Free COVID Testing for Staff & Secondary Students

The program for COVID testing was discontinued by the state. So, HSISD no longer offers testing for students or staff.

Symptomatic Staff & Students

Staff and students who show signs of COVID-19 will be screened by the nurse. The nurse will determine if the parents should be contacted, and the child sent home. The nurse will also determine if the staff member should be sent home.

Exclusion of Individuals Having COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 commonly referred to as COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school under 25 Texas Administrative Code § 97.7.

A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.

Please see the information below regarding “Individuals Confirmed to Have COVID-19” for readmission criteria.

Individuals Confirmed to have COVID-19

Any individual – teachers, staff, students, or other campus visitors – who **themselves**:

A) Are lab confirmed to have COVID-19

Must stay at home until the following condition(s) are met:

- 5 full days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

OR

- A doctor provides a note to clear the individual to return to school. A copy of the note must be provided to the campus nurse.

OR

- Those who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home

until at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.

Determination as to whether an individual has met the criteria will be made by the campus nurse.

Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

If a student is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the parent/guardian should immediately notify the campus nurse.

Elementary

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If a staff member is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, they should immediately notify their campus nurse.

Once we are notified of a lab-confirmed case in our district, the following steps will be taken:

- 1) Close off areas that are/were heavily used by the individual until those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have passed since that person was on campus.
- 2) Notify our DSHS contact & report the case via an online form to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Part II: Instructional Settings & Continuity of Services

Even though COVID-19 has been challenging, HSISD continues to move forward responding to the pandemic and addressing student learning loss.

HSISD's plan has been created to be flexible as governing authorities and/or health officials update us on present situations of the environmental conditions affecting our protocols for safety.

Assess and Address the Impact of Learning Loss

- Use of screeners, benchmark assessments and state testing data to help identify student strengths, learning gaps and disabilities.
- Provide learning interventions that lead toward student progress and growth.

More Instructional Time to Address the Impact of Learning Loss

Hughes Springs ISD will offer additional learning opportunities that may include:

- During the school day tutorial times at all 3 campuses
- After school tutorials to help with students not passing STAAR and EOC's
- Summer School
- Summer Learning Opportunities to Address Learning Loss in Reading & Math
- Accelerated instruction for students who have not been successful on STAAR & EOC's
- Reading & Math Interventionist on the Elementary & Junior High campuses
- Credit Recovery on the High School campus
- Increased use of technology in the classroom
- Summer Enrichment Programs in STEM, the Arts & Leadership

Built In Tutorial Time During the School Day

Built in tutorial or "flex" time in the campus schedules provide students the opportunity to:

- Complete assignments
- Practice presentations
- Study for tests or quizzes

- Receive tutoring or help from a teacher
- Make progress on long-term assignments
- Collaborate with classmates on group assignments
- Reduce homework
- Improve skills in specific areas

House Bill 4545

It is a REQUIRED part of HB 4545 that students must attend 30 hours of accelerated learning opportunities in the subject area in which they Did Not Meet passing standards for STAAR or EOCs.

Students cannot be removed from foundation curriculum, enrichment curriculum, or recess/physical education to complete this requirement.

Accelerated Learning Committees and Plans: HSISD is committed to each child's growth and development. For monitoring and guiding purposes, Accelerated Learning Committees will help in the development and implementation of individual accelerated learning instruction plans for each student that did not meet approaches on the following STAAR assessments:

- the 3rd grade mathematics or reading STAAR assessment;
- the 5th grade mathematics or reading STAAR assessment; or
- the 8th grade mathematics or reading STAAR assessment

These plans will determine the areas of accelerated instruction needed for the student, the plan for progress monitoring, assessment data, and the actions and tools that will be provided for the student. This plan will be documented in writing with a copy provided to the student's parent or guardian.

Student-Ratios: Services for reading and math interventions are provided in small groups to maximize the instruction. Typically, groups will range from 5-7 students. If a parent requests a smaller group size, we will accommodate for the required 30 hours of instruction for any student who failed a STAAR or EOC course.

Part III: Mental Health & Behavior Supports

Hughes Springs ISD will continue to utilize various programming, resources and partnerships that benefit the mental, social, and emotional needs of the students.

HSISD will be utilizing the following resources:

- Our campus counselors
- Our new part-time Licensed Professional Counselor
- Counseling through a partnership with Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) with UT Health
- Positive Behavior Supports & Interventions
- Continue to build strong relationships among students, families, and educators
- Teach critical social, emotional, and academic skills
- Provide supportive and specific feedback
- Telehealth/telemedicine available for Jr. High & High School students through a partnership with Hazel Health

Hughes Springs ISD is happy to announce that during the 2023-2024 school year, healthy meals will be provided to all Elementary and Jr. High students free of charge.

Each Elementary and Jr. High student will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day, if they choose to eat in the cafeteria.

High School students are eligible to qualify for free or reduced meals through the NSLP application process. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Martinez at 903-639-3809.