



## Promesa Public Schools

# Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

The Texas Education Agency recently announced the availability of \$11.2 billion in federal funding made available to school districts through ESSER III under the American Rescue Plan. This is a substantial sum of money, though amounts vary significantly from district to district. This page on our website will be used to communicate with our staff, parents, and community members about the ESSER III funds (ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief). These 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.

Promesa Public Schools 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 this plan in the summer of 2020 with full consideration of public comment and feedback from all stakeholder groups. We have persevered throughout the year, despite the occasional setback, to keep students in school and to maintain open lines of communication with our entire school community. For the 2021-22 school year full in-person instruction will continue, supplemented by expanded services, activities, and extracurricular programs. This statement 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.

**As we start this new school year, the top priorities of Promesa Public Schools are the safety and academic success of all students.**

In our efforts to identify the wishes of our students and school community an online survey was conducted May 27, 2021-June 4, 2021. Each campus posted the survey on their website. The results included responses from all required stakeholders. This plan was then developed and presented to the School Board at an open meeting on August 4, 2021. There were no public comments.



### **SAFE RETURN GOALS 2021-2022**

1. Follow Local Public Health Authority, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency and/or the Office of the Governor of Texas Guidelines to keep our students and staff safe.
2. Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated catch-up growth opportunities.
3. Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
4. Adopt processes and procedures to alleviate the need for school closures.

***All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Local Public Health Authority, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency and/or the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.***

### **Back to School 2021-2022**

Entering the 2021-2022 school year Promesa Public Schools plans to continue the learning initiatives it had established and will provide new learning opportunities for our students.

### **Instructional Settings and Continuity of Services**

- Promesa after careful review of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the distribution of vaccinations, has made the decision to open our Campus doors to all students for face-to-face learning for the 2021-2022
- For the 2021-22 school year full In-Person or Face to Face Instruction will continue. along with expanded services, activities, and extracurricular programs.
- Alternative instructional settings may be needed in response to extenuating circumstances. (Promesa is awaiting further guidance from the Texas Education Agency regarding students who have a physician's verification documenting a specific medical need and whose children meet the criteria established for a remote learning program) Special cases will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis. Update
- Local community transmission and situational changes may justify asynchronous instruction at various times during the school year.



### **Remote Conferencing (September 2, 2021 TEA Public Health Guidance)**

Remote Conferencing means remote instruction in which a student at an off-campus location is able to virtually participate in classes provided by a teacher on the student's campus. These two requirements must be met

- The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition.<sup>1</sup>
- The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year.

In addition, one of the following requirements also must be met:

- The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital.
- The student has a positive test result for a communicable condition listed in 25 TAC §97.7.
- The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19

### **Assessing and Addressing the Impact of Learning Loss**

- Use of screeners and/or benchmark assessments to help identify student strengths, learning gaps and disabilities.
- Provide learning interventions that lead toward student progress and growth.
- Incorporate Differentiated Learning Platforms that Continuously Adapt for Student Growth

### **More Instructional Time to address the impact of Learning Loss**

Promesa Public Schools will offer additional learning opportunities that may include:

- During the day tutoring
- After school tutoring
- Saturday school
- Tutoring through partnerships
- Web-based software
- Summer School
- Credit Recovery



### **Rigorous Instructional Materials and Teacher Supports**

- Texas Resource System's researched based curriculum
- Implementation of additional Career Tech Courses at the Secondary Level
- Implementation of the Accelerated Reading at the Elementary Level
- Implementation of Freckle Math at the Elementary level
- A continuation of the Frog Street Curriculum for prekindergarten
- Increased use of technology in the classrooms
- Extracurricular Programs

### **Mental Health and Behavioral Supports**

Promesa Public Schools will continue to utilize various programming, resources, and partnerships that benefit the mental, social and emotional needs of the student. These may include but are not limited to:

- Offer in school counseling
- Partnership with Social Workers to provide outreach/services to students and families
- PBIS Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Continue with community partnerships to benefit the whole child
- Implement Youth Led Programming
- Establish Student Councils
- Ensure the continuity of Food service programs

### **Facilities**

- Promesa Public Schools will development of specialized instructional spaces within buildings
- Addition of space as needed for the safety of staff and students
- Improvements as needed for increased use of technology within the schools
- Make building improvements as needed for the safety of staff and students



## **Proposed COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols**

### **Face Coverings No Longer Required**

- Face coverings will not be required in any educational space or activity including school buses, athletics, etc; however, masks may be worn.
- Face mask will be available for distribution upon request.

### **COVID Immunizations Not Mandatory**

- Promesa Public Schools will continue to provide information to the community about COVID immunization opportunities. However, the COVID immunization will not be required for staff or students.
- Promesa's staff will be encouraged to log their vaccination information with their respective campus.

### **Hand Hygiene**

- Promesa Public Schools will continue to encourage good hand hygiene, such as reminding students to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, etc., and providing access to hand sanitizer stations.

### **Disinfection**

- Touchpoints (faucets, doorknobs, light switches, etc.) will continue to be disinfected throughout all buildings daily.
- School buses will continue to be disinfected twice daily.
- Teachers and staff will continue to have access to disinfectant supplies to clean high-touch areas regularly if desired.

### **Quarantines Discontinued**



***All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Local Public Health Authority, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency and/or the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.***

- Quarantines of healthy/non-symptomatic students and staff will be discontinued.
- Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID, or show symptoms commonly associated with COVID, they will be asked to isolate for 10 days (unless they provide documentation of being fully vaccinated or having been positive for COVID in the last 3 months).
- The person in isolation may return if they receive a negative COVID test after day 5 of isolation.

#### **Notifications upon A Positive COVID Case**

- If an individual who has been in areas on campus is lab-confirmed to have COVID 19, the school will notify its local health department.
- Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
- If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, a campus administration will conduct contact tracing. Those students and staff who have had “close contact” with the student or staff will be notified that a staff member or student has had a positive test result.
- Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor in an area where activities have been conducted is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report will be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).

**Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School (September 2, 2021 TEA Public Health Guidance)**



- If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.

### **Physical Distancing**

- Physical distancing will continue to be encouraged.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

- Any students who have disabilities will receive the needed accommodations to ensure their safety while they are on campus or attending any campus-related events

### **Cafeterias & child nutrition**

- Continued use of disposable student food service items (e.g., utensils, trays).
- Cafeteria employees will continue to adhere to Food Services Guidelines
- Employees will ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.

### **Visitors in Promesa Public Schools/Facilities Permitted**



- In the 2021-2022 school year, Policies and Procedures for Visitors will be reinstated.
- Schools will continue to use Raptor as a safety measure and/or keep a log of visitors and who/where they visited.
- Face coverings will not be required for visitors.

### **Playgrounds and Recess**

- Playground use will be allowed with proper safeguards.
- Stagger groups using playgrounds and/or limit multiple group usage.
- Wash hands before and after recess.

### **Athletics and Activities Resume as Normal**

- Athletics and activities will resume as normal during the 2021-2022 academic year, in partnership with governing bodies.
- All individuals vaccinated or unvaccinated will not be required to wear a face mask while attending any indoor activities. Players and coaches and others will have the option to mask while they are competing if they choose to do so, as a reference for practices recommended by the CDC.
- Any equipment will be regularly disinfected before and after practice sessions.

### **Field Trips Resume**

- Field trips will resume in 2021-2022.