

# VALERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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



2022-2023

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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 2022-2023 school year. For the 2022-2023 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. This plan was presented to the School Board at an open meeting on September 29, 2022. There were no public comments.

All Valere Public Schools classes will be conducted in person. Masks and/or face coverings will be optional for students and staff. Parents will be notified of lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 cases through website postings. The district will not report at-home positive COVID-19 results as of 9/8/2022. Also, the Student Handbook states that “a student absent for more than three consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student’s extended absence from school.” COVID-19 positive students and staff cannot return to campus until conditions for re-entry have been met. The school district will no longer quarantine due to in-district exposures and will not send courtesy exposure notices.

### SAFE RETURN GOALS 2022-2023

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. Continue to assess academic gaps and provide accelerated catch-up growth opportunities.
3. Continue to evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
4. Continue to utilize 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.

### **Continuation of 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

### **Continuation of 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

Summary of how VALERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, to the extent to which it has adopted policies on each of the CDC's safety recommendations:

1. Universal and correct wearing of masks – consistent with Governor Abbott's orders, the wearing of masks or face coverings is not required and will be optional for students, staff, and visitors.
2. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g. use of cohorts/podding) – Hallways will have designated areas for traffic flow on either side of the hallway.
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette – hand sanitizing stations will be placed at each entrance to the campus buildings and will be available in each classroom.
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities – VALERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS will continue to thoroughly clean and sanitize.
5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with state and local health departments – Consistent with TEA student attendance requirements, all Valere Public Schools classes will be conducted in person. Parents will be notified of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases through communication portals. COVID-19 positive students and staff cannot return to campus until conditions for re-entry have been met. Because an essential part of the "close contact" definition from 2020-2021 included wearing a face covering or mask and because the governor's orders specifically prohibit schools from requiring the wearing of a face covering or mask, the district will no longer quarantine due to close contact exposures and will not send courtesy notices for close contact. Employees and students may choose to wear a mask at any time, including but not limited to, when a notification has been made that someone on a campus has tested positive for COVID-19.
7. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and coordination with state and local officials – Valere Public Schools will work with families to provide the academic and social/emotional support needed for students with disabilities to be successful
8. Cafeterias & child nutrition will continue the 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.
9. Visitors will be permitted in the 2022-2023 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.

10. Athletics and activities will resume as normal during the 2022-2023 academic year, 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.

11. Field trips will continue in 2022-2023