

The logo for BISD Launch features the letters 'BISD' in a bold, black, serif font. A stylized star with red and white stripes is positioned above the 'i'. To the right of 'BISD', the word 'Launch' is written in a red, cursive script font. The entire logo is enclosed within a dark blue rectangular border.

BISD Launch

● **Return to School Guide 2020-2021** ●


for Parents and Students

“Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being and provide our children and adolescents with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits. Beyond supporting the educational development of children and adolescents, schools play a critical role in addressing racial and social inequity.”

-- American Academy of Pediatrics

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INTRODUCTION

Conditions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic are ever-changing. Bastrop ISD's return-to-school plans for 2020-2021 are fluid and will be continually evaluated and updated in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. The most updated information from Bastrop ISD will be published on our district website. In addition, the District will continue to notify families of any and all major updates that are published.

Bastrop ISD has developed this **Return to School Guide** for 2020-21 to inform parents and students about their choices for the new school year. Regardless of the instructional option parents select for their child, Bastrop ISD is fully prepared and committed to providing a high-quality, rigorous learning environment that focuses on students' safety, as well as their academic, social and emotional well-being.

Mission

The mission of the Bastrop Independent School District is to ignite passion for lifelong learning and to successfully motivate and prepare all students to compete globally by ensuring they are engaged in diverse, rigorous, and relevant learning experiences that incorporate 21st century skills.

Although the current pandemic creates new and dynamic challenges for our school system, we are committed to focusing on this core purpose with an even greater urgency. The purpose of this document is to communicate our plan for the 2020-21 school year as it relates to **four key areas**:



Commitments

Bastrop ISD is committed to excellence in our return to school plan. We aim to:

- Adopt protocols that place student and staff safety at the forefront.
- Achieve educational equity and access for all students through opportunities and resources to help students reach their full, individual potential.
- Offer a full range of individualized programming through face-to-face, in-person learning or remote, online learning
- Follow a shared scope and sequence whether learning at school or at home.
- Adhere to District grading guidelines, teacher expectations, and student support systems.
- Hold students accountable to the 90% attendance requirement for earning course credit regardless of a student's chosen learning environment.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our staff and students remains our highest priority. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the protocols and steps we have outlined in this document are based on public health and governmental directives, as well as advancing scientific knowledge on the transmissibility of COVID-19. They are intended to increase the likelihood that staff and students can teach and learn in a safe school environment and reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Consistently implementing these protocols is the best way to reduce the potential negative impact of infection on students' educational experiences and on the health and safety of students and staff.

Transitional Start

Bastrop ISD is scheduled to start the 2020-21 school year August 18. Given current public health conditions and concerns over the rise in coronavirus cases in our region, Bastrop ISD will suspend in-person instruction and deliver only virtual instruction for the first three weeks of school (August 18-September 8). In the meantime, we will reach out to families to ensure they have the technology they need to be successful.

Beginning September 9, parents will have the choice between two learning environments for their child. They may continue with online instruction, or their child may transition to face-to-face instruction by attending school on campus each day. More information about **Instructional Options for Families** can be found in the next section.

New
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Parents are requested to make their decision for onsite instruction or online instruction no later than August 9. However, we will be flexible with parents who need to change their selection after this date. Having a headcount allows us to prepare our buildings for a safe return for students, to allocate technology, and to create instructional schedules that are balanced.

Site Coordinator

Each campus will have a designated person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. The Site Coordinator will be the principal of the school or the principal's designee of another administrator. The campus Site Coordinators will work as a team in conjunction with District officials to ensure a consistent, coordinated response.

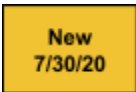
Prevention and Mitigation Practices

Arrival/Dismissal	<p>ARRIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents should avoid early drop-offs in the morning.• Parents who are driving their children to school should remain in their vehicles.• Parents or older siblings who are walking their children to school will be asked to remain outside.• Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available inside the main entrance.• Once the building opens, students will report to their homeroom, first-period class or other designated location according to campus procedures.• Secondary campuses may consider multiple entrances to receive students to mitigate large gatherings. This may depend on the number of parents who elect onsite learning. <p>DISMISSAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of
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	<p>walkers, car riders, bus riders or grade levels will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitizer stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to sanitize hands prior to exit. • Parents picking up students during the day must call ahead so that students can be sent or accompanied to parent vehicles upon arrival. • Early pick-ups will not be permitted one hour before the dismissal time, with the exception of required doctor appointments.
<p>Cafeteria: Breakfast & Lunch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines. Physical distance will be provided around each occupiable seat. • Hand sanitizer stations will be available in the cafeteria. • Signage and staff will reinforce physical distance and traffic patterns. • Meals may be packaged as individualized “grab and go” meals to ensure ease of pick up and transport to eating locations. • Eating in classrooms may be an option if we cannot safely distance children in the cafeteria. • Every campus will devise lunch schedules and formats, including outside areas, that allow students to eat safely apart from each other. • Reference Child Nutrition in the Student Support Services section of this document for more information.
<p>Classrooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class size will depend on the number of parents who elect the onsite instructional model for their students. • Each classroom will be outfitted with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visual reminders of distancing requirements and best practice; ○ Hand sanitizer; and ○ Disinfectant wipes or spray based on product availability. • Teachers and staff will have access to disinfectant wipes or spray to sanitize high-touch surfaces and shared objects during the instructional day. • Teachers will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require hand hygiene (washing or sanitizing) when entering the classroom and after group activities; ○ Create physical distance between desks and tables as much as instructionally practical (3-6 feet); ○ Establish appropriate student responsibilities to clean personal areas and materials/supplies, as needed; ○ Incorporate outdoor teaching when appropriate; and ○ Limit the use of shared supplies and sanitize any shared supplies. • Teachers will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
<p>Cleaning and Disinfecting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District has obtained or is ordering cleaning and sanitizing supplies. The Texas Education Agency also has procured supplies for school districts. • Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned daily. • All high touch areas will be disinfected daily. • Custodial staff will wear face coverings and gloves during work hours. • Child nutrition staff will wear face coverings and gloves during meal preparation and service. • The cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods. • Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction. • Buses will be disinfected after each morning and afternoon route.
<p>Common Areas and Transitions</p> <div data-bbox="203 1787 337 1875" style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> <p>New 7/30/20</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students will wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth unless eating, drinking or exercising (athletics, PE, recess). Cloth face coverings are recommended. • Staggered releases from each class may be organized to limit the number of students in the hallway during transitions. When transitioning between classes, students will travel corridors as far to the right as possible.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual markers will be developed to help students maintain physical distance and adhere to established campus traffic flow in hallways. • Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible. One-way traffic throughout campus corridors may be established if feasible. • Access to hand sanitizer will be provided in common areas.
Extracurricular: Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow guidance of TEA, UIL and our local health authority related to extracurricular/athletic activities. • Athletic events will follow participation guidelines set by the UIL. • Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol including health screening, group size, sharing and sanitizing of equipment, and locker room usage. • Hand sanitizing stations will be available in gym facilities, and equipment will be sanitized regularly. • If locker rooms can be accessed, all locker room space will be utilized to follow social distancing guidelines. • Bus travel will follow the transportation guidelines provided by the District and TEA. • Spectator attendance at games and contests may be limited. Ticketing for events may be utilized to control the capacity of facilities. • Postgame sign-out procedures for athletes will be communicated to parents prior to the beginning of each season. • Event procedures will be in place to minimize face-to-face interactions. • Separate entrances and exits may be utilized and event doors may be propped open to minimize physical contact with handles. • Spectator seats may be marked and/or configured in a way to enforce social distancing. • Concessions and/or concession sales may be limited to encourage social distancing and to follow health and safety guidelines. • Booster club meetings should be held virtually to minimize outside exposure to campuses.
Extracurricular: Fine Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow guidance of TEA, UIL and our local health authority related to extracurricular/fine arts activities. • Large group practice sessions, sectionals, and rehearsals will adhere to social distancing guidelines. • Private music lesson teachers will not be allowed to teach onsite until further notice. Private lessons may continue to be conducted virtually if agreed upon between individual families and the lesson teacher. • Off-campus fine arts performances will only be conducted if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g., District, TEA, UIL). • Concerts/performance may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the manner in which performances are conducted. • Booster club meetings should be held virtually to minimize outside exposure to campuses.
Face Coverings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students will wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth unless eating, drinking or exercising (athletics, PE, recess). Cloth face coverings are recommended. • All students must wear a face covering when riding the school bus. • Certain individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities may be unable to effectively wear a face covering. • Parents must send their children to school with a clean face covering each day. • Face shields are not recommended for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings, however there could be situations where a face shield is instructionally appropriate.
Hand Washing and Sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entrance to the campus, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus. Classrooms will have hand



	<p>sanitizer and/or hand soap at sinks for hand washing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands. • Students will be instructed to use hand soap or hand sanitizer upon entry to the classroom with periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day. • Students will be instructed to thoroughly wash hands after recess, before and after eating and restroom breaks.
<p>Health Screenings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to coming to work, including checking temperature. Staff with COVID-19 symptoms should not report to work, but should contact their health care provider and their supervisor. • Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school or putting them on a school bus. • Parents' cooperation in not sending children to school who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms and in screening their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day before school will be critical to keeping our children and staff safe and healthy.
<p>Hygiene and Safety Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will receive instruction on the first day and during the first week of school on appropriate hygiene and mitigation strategies, including proper hand washing technique and respiratory etiquette. • Student and staff training will be reinforced frequently throughout the school year. • Signage will be placed in visible common areas and in classrooms with reminders about health and hygiene protocols and safety measures.
<p>Isolation Protocol (for students/staff displaying COVID-19 symptoms)</p> <div data-bbox="207 1031 342 1121" style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">New 7/30/20</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a student displays possible symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the school nurse will conduct a clinical assessment to determine if the student needs to be sent home. • If a nurse determines a student must go home due to possible COVID-19 symptoms or illness, the student will be isolated in a designated campus location until parent arrival. The student must be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than one hour from the time the campus contacted the parent. • If a student becomes ill in a classroom with suspected COVID-19 symptoms, it may be necessary for other students to be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different room, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected. • Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members. • Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to meet established "return to school/work" criteria, which may include a statement from a physician. See Return to School Criteria at the end of this section. • Parents will be informed if their student is determined to have come into contact with a student or staff member who has a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test. • Students or staff who come into close contact* with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and may not return to campus during that time. Note: *Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or within 6 feet for a prolonged period. • The District will notify the local health authority if a person who has been in a school building is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. • The District will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on-campus activity.
<p>Parent Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARD meetings, 504 meetings, and parent conferences (including discipline hearings and grievance hearings) will be held virtually. • The format for the annual elementary conferences will be determined at a later time. • Parents and teachers are encouraged to communicate regularly via email and/or Google Classroom to ensure students have the necessary support to be successful.
<p>Recess (exercise/play)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor transmission of the virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission. To mitigate the risk of transmission, we will work to cohort students and limit the size of groups at recess at any given time. • Although we will teach children to maintain safe distances from each other while on the



	<p>playground, enforcing physical distancing on the playground may be difficult.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will wash or sanitize their hands at the beginning and end of recess. • Face coverings will not be required during recess. • High-touch surfaces on the playground such as railings and handles will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
<p>School Closure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be a situation that requires the temporary closure of physical buildings and onsite instruction. The District is prepared to quickly transition into a remote/virtual instruction model for all students in the event our buildings have to close temporarily. • Any decisions will be guided by the health information provided to us by state and local agencies.
<p>Student Health Services (nurse)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must be in compliance regarding immunizations prior to school starting. • Teachers and other adults will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms present. • The campus nurse will educate teachers on what to look for in students and what types of issues require a referral to the nurse. • In the event a campus nurse is out, there will be a substitute nurse or other staff member/substitute trained to address COVID-19 issues and other illnesses.
<p>Symptoms</p> <div data-bbox="203 814 337 898" style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <p>New 7/30/20</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any person experiencing fever of 100.4°F or higher (when taken by mouth) or 100°F or higher (when taken using a digital forehead thermometer) or who is feeling ill with COVID-19 symptoms, should not come to school and should contact their health care provider for guidance. • Any person who has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain at home. Note: *Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or within 6 feet for a prolonged period. • Symptoms of COVID-19 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Temperature of 100.4°F or higher (when taken by mouth) or 100°F or higher (when taken using a digital forehead thermometer) ○ Sore throat ○ New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline) ○ Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain ○ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever ○ New loss of taste or smell ○ Significant muscle pain or ache ○ Chills or exaggerated shivering
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are required to screen children each day, including temperature check, before allowing them to board the bus. (See Health Screening in this chart.) • Students will use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus. • Students will have assigned seats using a seating chart. • Buses will load from back to front and unload from front to back. • All students will be required to wear a face covering while riding the school bus. The bus driver will also wear a face covering. • Windows will be cracked to allow for air circulation on the bus. • Buses will be disinfected after the morning route and again after the afternoon route using an approved disinfectant sprayer.
<p>Ventilation</p>	<p>Based upon guidelines from American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), BISD will take several steps to improve ventilation in buildings where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase external air intake through HVAC system.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate exhaust fans continuously for the purpose of increasing air flow to vent and increase circulation. Install higher density filters throughout schools; nurse’s office and isolation rooms will be equipped with a superior density filter.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BISD will limit visitors to campuses to essential visits only, including restricting parents from eating with children in the cafeteria or classroom. This period will include at least the first 12 weeks of school. At any time a visitor comes to campus, he/she will have their temperature taken using a contactless thermometer. A person with a temperature of 100°F or higher or who answers yes to either of the questions below will not be allowed to remain on campus. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19? Have you had any known close contact* with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19? <p>Note: *Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or within 6 feet for a prolonged period.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of water fountains will be restricted. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home each day. Although students will not be allowed to drink from the water fountains, they will be allowed to refill the water bottle they have brought from home.

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Return to School Criteria for Students

For a Symptomatic Student

For a student who thinks or knows he/she has COVID-19 and has symptoms, he/she can return to school when the following three conditions are met:

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7/30/20

- 24 hours have passed with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication);
- Symptoms have improved; and
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

For an Asymptomatic Student

For a student who tested positive for COVID-19 but who had no symptoms, he/she can return to school when either of the following conditions are met:

- 10 days have passed since initial positive test, OR
- Student has two negative tests at least 24 hours apart

Instructional Options for Families

For the 2020-21 school year, Bastrop ISD will offer each student the option to attend school 100% of the time on campus for face-to-face, in-person instruction. BISD will offer a second option for 100% online, virtual instruction. Both options are available for children in grades PK through 12. Online learning is an “opt-in” learning model. A student will automatically be placed in onsite instruction unless otherwise selected.

For the first three weeks of the school year (August 18-September 8), all students will participate in virtual instruction. At the end of the three weeks, students will either remain in online instruction or be transitioned to onsite instruction, based upon the selection they choose.

Option 1: ONSITE

The onsite model will consist of face-to-face instruction that is 100% on campus with safety protocols in place to help protect students and staff. Instruction on campus will happen Monday through Friday following a traditional bell schedule that parents and students are familiar with.

Option 2: ONLINE

The online model is entirely virtual, requiring students to have a consistent online presence and daily log-in requirements. Virtual instruction will happen Monday through Friday but may not necessarily follow a traditional bell schedule. A loaner device (Chromebook, laptop) is available from the District upon request if a student does not have his/her own device. **Reliable home access to the internet is essential for the delivery of online instruction.**

Selecting a Learning Option for Your Child

We believe that the face-to-face, in-person instructional setting of a classroom and the relationship and interactions with teachers and peers provide the best environment for the vast majority of students; therefore, we encourage parents to send their children to school.

However, we understand that some parents may prefer for their students to learn virtually from home. To assist parents in making the decision between the ONSITE and ONLINE learning models, we have created the comparison chart below to show similarities and differences.

New
7/30/20

Note: Parents who choose the online option are not limited to the first three weeks of the school year. High-quality virtual instruction by certified teachers from Bastrop ISD who use rigorous, top-notch curriculum and resources will be available for the entire 2020-21 school year should a family elect to keep their children in a virtual learning environment.

Learning Options At-A-Glance		
	ONSITE	ONLINE
Assessment	Students will take curriculum-based, District, and State assessments according to BISD's assessment calendar.	Students will take curriculum-based, District, and State assessments according to BISD's assessment calendar.
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TEA attendance policies will be followed for all students. Students must abide by the 90% attendance/completion for credit. Attendance will be taken daily during each campus' official attendance time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TEA attendance policies will be followed for all students. Students must abide by the 90% attendance/completion for credit. Attendance will be taken daily based on that day's student participation in Google Classroom/computer-based programs, student-teacher interaction, and/or submitted assignments.
Curriculum	Teachers will provide instruction according to the Texas state standards in the order and pace designed in the BISD curriculum plan.	Teachers will provide instruction according to the Texas state standards in the order and pace designed in the BISD curriculum plan.
Grading	Grades will be assigned according to District grading guidelines.	Grades will be assigned according to District grading guidelines.
Student Schedules	<p>Students will receive a daily schedule with 450 instructional minutes.</p> <p>Elementary - 7:30-3:00 pm Intermediate - 8:30-4:00 pm Middle School - 8:30-4:00 pm High School - 8:40-4:10 pm</p> <p>Onsite Schedules K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th 5th & 6th 7th & 8th</p>	<p>Students will receive instruction through the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily live student/teacher interaction and engagement via videoconferencing Online activities and programming via Google Classroom Computer-based instructional programs <p>The number of instructional minutes is comparable to onsite instruction to ensure that students stay on-track in grade level curriculum.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>New Sample Schedules Coming Soon with Built-In Flexibility for Working Parents</p> </div>
Parent Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents will ensure their child attends school each day and meets the 90% attendance requirement. Parents will monitor their child's progress and grades. Parents will maintain regular communication with teacher(s). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents will ensure their child attends virtual school each day and meets the 90% attendance requirement. Parents are encouraged to enroll in district-provided training regarding supporting their child in online learning. Parents should monitor their child's progress and ask for evidence their child is on track with assignments and coursework. Parents should check the campus homepage for links to teacher lessons and provide assistance on daily activities unless the work is designated by the teacher as "independent" work. Parents should establish and monitor the



		<p>daily schedule communicated by the teacher and the campus, including creating a designated learning space at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should maintain regular communication with teacher(s) by phone, email, and/or online meetings to create a learning partnership.
Student Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will attend school each day according to their class schedule and complete assigned classwork and homework to show mastery of the curriculum. Following the BISD Student Code of Conduct and Dress Code during online instruction. Taking responsibility for asking for help, asking questions, and taking advantage of tutorial sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will participate in virtual learning each day (logging into Google Classroom, watching instructional videos, and/or interacting with teachers according to the student's schedule and teacher expectations). Students will complete assigned classwork and homework to show mastery and submit through Google Classroom. Following the BISD Student Code of Conduct and Dress Code during online instruction. Taking responsibility for asking for help, asking questions, and taking advantage of tutorial sessions.
Teacher Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will provide daily instruction, support, academic feedback and progress monitoring to students in-person. Following the BISD Employee Handbook and Dress Code Monitor and Adjust instruction and support based on student need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will report to their campus each day to facilitate their virtual classes. Teachers will provide daily recorded or interactive instruction, support and progress monitoring. Teachers will provide academic feedback through Google Classroom or similar platforms. Following the BISD Employee Handbook and Dress Code Monitor and Adjust instruction and support based on student need

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DECISION MAKING

	ONSITE	ONLINE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Does your child receive primary instruction (grades PK-2)? ★ Does your child benefit from hands-on, in-person interaction to learn new concepts? ★ Does your child benefit from frequent support or supervision to complete assignments? ★ Does your child need extra support to read on grade level? ★ Does your child need additional behavioral supports to stay focused during learning? ★ Does your child have a disability or learning challenges that are best addressed via in-person instruction? ★ Did your child struggle with online learning during the spring of 2020? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Is your child able to read grade-level material independently? ★ Is your child self-motivated and self-disciplined in order to take ownership of learning and stay organized? ★ Will your child recognize when to ask for assistance and seek support from their teacher? ★ How did your child do with online learning during spring of 2020 (understanding that the 2020-2021 virtual school will be more in-depth, challenging, and time intensive for your student)? ★ Do you and/or your child have adequate computer skills to email, submit assignments, and access online learning platforms?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Is your child starting at a new campus next year (PK, Kinder, 5th, 7th, 9th grade)? ★ Did your child experience significant loss of skills after school closures in spring of 2020? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Does your student have their own device and access to reliable internet service throughout the instructional day? ★ Do you have a designated space for your child to engage in instruction and complete assignments with limited distractions? ★ Are you able to provide appropriate supervision and support within the home to allow for implementation of student schedules? ★ Are you able to ensure your child is available during the instructional day for virtual lessons and meetings with their teacher? ★ Do you have reliable transportation to access the school periodically for specialized classes or assessments?
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Timeframe for Selecting a Learning Option

Because the planning required to safely open school is unprecedented, we respectfully request that parents make their selection of ONSITE or ONLINE instruction as quickly as possible. The sooner the District has accurate enrollment numbers, the sooner we can make necessary assignments and adjustments to our programming to meet student needs. A parent who does not select a learning option will default to the ONSITE model and have their child automatically assigned to classes on campus. Parents who have multiple children in BISD will be allowed to choose the learning model that best serves each child. A student will remain in the selected learning environment until the end of the 6-week/9-week grading period.

**New
7/30/20**

Bastrop ISD will have a transitional start that includes the first three weeks being entirely virtual for all students. Following this initial time frame, students will either remain in virtual instruction or transition to onsite instruction based upon the selection made by parents using a form in Skyward Family Access. At the same time, parents will be asked to share their student's need for a device, internet access and/or bus transportation. We urge parents to make their learning option selection by August 9 to enable Bastrop ISD to plan and prepare.

All students, regardless of the learning environment, must be registered for the 2020-21 school year. Students who are not registered will not receive a schedule or be assigned into a classroom. Parents with students new to Bastrop ISD can start the registration process here: [New Student Enrollment](#). Parents with students who already attend Bastrop ISD can update/verify their information here: [Current Student Information Verification](#).

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Whether ONSITE or ONLINE, Bastrop ISD is prepared to address the needs of all students in the 2020-21 school year. This includes their needs related to grade level achievement, academic supports, social emotional development, and more. **This section focuses on explaining the online school option.** While parents and students gained some experience with this mode of learning during our school closure in the spring, the new version of our virtual school platform as well as our protocols for virtual learning need additional explanation and detail.

Overview by Grade Band

PK - 6th Grade	
Core Curriculum	<p>Students will receive instruction based on required state standards in the same order and at the same pace as students receiving on-site instruction. Students may receive instruction in the following ways to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Live interaction with the teacher (whole class, small group and individual sessions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PK-4th: up to 3 hours per day of live student interaction with the teacher ○ 5th-6th: up to 4 hours per day of live student interaction with the teacher ○ A schedule with the times of live student/teacher interaction will be sent each week. ● Teacher-created instructional videos and additional resources ● Authentic student work/assignments submitted through Google Classroom with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard; ● Work in computer-based instructional programs for a specified amount of time ● Work in other digital platforms such as SeeSaw, FlipGrid, Google Forms, or Summit K-12 ● Students will take curriculum-based assessments, District assessments, and state assessments according to BISD's assessment calendar, including STAAR, TELPAS, TEJAS LEE, TPRI, and CIRCLE.
Bilingual	Students receiving Bilingual education services will continue to receive bilingual instruction following the district's language framework for grades Pre Kindergarten through Fourth grade.
ESL	Students receiving ESL services will continue to receive services through sheltered instruction.
Dyslexia Services	Students will receive Dyslexia instruction through recorded and interactive lessons, individualized assignments and independent practice on the Mindplay Literacy program. The combination of these services will amount to at least 45 minutes, 4 days per week of dyslexia intervention.
Gifted/Talented	Gifted and talented lessons will be provided through Google Classroom on a biweekly basis in alignment with onsite GT programming. Students will have the opportunity to engage in live sessions with the GT teacher and sometimes peers at least once every other week.
Special Education	Students will receive services as described in their Individualized Education Plan to the maximum extent possible. See Special Education section in this document for additional details.
Specials	The district will provide lessons for music, art, computer, and PE. Students will be allowed to participate in live performances.
UIL Activities	Students who selected the online learning option will be able to participate in extracurricular activities in accordance with UIL rules and District guidelines.

7th - 8th Grade

Core Curriculum	<p>Students will receive instruction based on required state standards in the same order and at the same pace as students receiving on-site instruction.</p> <p>Students may receive instruction in the following ways to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to 4 hours of daily, live interaction with the teacher (whole class, small group and individual sessions). A schedule with the exact times of live student/teacher interaction will be sent each week. ● Teacher-created instructional videos and additional resources ● Authentic student work/assignments submitted through Google Classroom with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard ● Hands-on activities which may need an extra pair of at “home” hands ● Work in computer-based instructional programs for a specified amount of time ● Work in other digital platforms such as SeeSaw, FlipGrid, and/or Google Forms ● Students will take curriculum-based assessments, District assessments, and state assessments according to BISD’s assessment calendar, including STAAR, TELPAS, Credit by Exam, and Advanced Placement.
CTE	Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses may require some on-site attendance for labs and skill assessment.
ESL	Students receiving ESL services will continue to receive services through sheltered instruction.
Pre-AP/AP	Pre-AP/AP courses will be offered. The learning platform is decided on a course-by-course basis.
Dyslexia Services	Students will receive dyslexia instruction through recorded and interactive lessons, individualized assignments and independent practice on the Mindplay Literacy program. The combination of these services will amount to at least 45 minutes, 4 days per week of dyslexia intervention.
Special Education	Students will receive services as described in their Individualized Education Plan to the maximum extent possible. See Special Education section in this document for additional details.
Special Areas: Fine Arts, Technology, PE	The district will provide lessons for Art, Dance, Music, Theater, Dance, Technology Applications, and PE. Students will be allowed to participate in live performances.
Extracurricular Activities	Students who selected the online learning option will be able to participate in extracurricular activities in accordance with UIL rules and District guidelines.
Credit-by-Exam (CBE)	Credit-by-exam for acceleration will be available at times outlined by the BISD 2020-2021 CBE calendar. Assessments will be offered online when available. Some assessments may require students to come to the campus to test in person.

9th - 12th Grade

Core Curriculum & LOTE	<p>Students will receive instruction for their core curriculum primarily through the Edgenuity platform and/or online courses through Google Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular grading policies apply. ● Students are required to engage in the learning platform and complete assignments on a daily basis. ● Students will take curriculum-based assessments, District assessments, and state assessments according to BISD's assessment calendar, including STAAR and TELPAS. ● Courses from both Edgenuity and Google Classroom will count towards a student's GPA. <p>Edgenuity Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scheduled tutorials and interventions will be established. ● A teacher will be assigned to provide support and progress monitor each core subject. ● Teachers will establish mandatory, live student/teacher interactive touch points based on district guidance. <p>Google Classroom Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will be facilitated by a teacher. ● Will have required live student/teacher interaction up to 4 hours a week. ● Tutorials and/or office hours will be available on any day that live student/teacher interaction is not scheduled.
CTE	Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses may require some on-site attendance for labs and skill assessment.
Dual Credit	BISD will adhere to Austin Community College (ACC) Dual Credit platform for learning for 2020-2021.
ESL	Students receiving ESL services will continue to receive services through sheltered instruction.
Pre-AP/AP	Pre-AP/AP courses will be offered. The learning platform is decided on a course-by-course basis.
Dyslexia Services	Students will receive dyslexia instruction through recorded and interactive lessons, individualized assignments and independent practice on the Mindplay Literacy program. The combination of these services will amount to at least 45 minutes, 4 days per week of dyslexia intervention.
Special Education	Students will receive services as described in their Individualized Education Plan to the maximum extent possible. See Special Education section in this document for additional details.
Special Areas: Fine Arts, PE	The district will provide lessons for Art, Dance, Music, Theater, and PE. Students will be allowed to participate in live performances.
Extracurricular Activities	Students who selected the online learning option will be able to participate in extracurricular activities in accordance with UIL rules and District guidelines.
Genesis High School	Genesis will continue to receive students for the 2020-2021 school year based on established criteria.
Credit-by-Exam	Credit-by-exam for acceleration will be available at times outlined by the BISD 2020-2021 CBE calendar. Assessments will be offered online when available. Some assessments may require students to come in and test in person.

District and State Assessments

All students, whether they select onsite or online learning, will take curriculum-based, District, and State assessments according to BISD's assessment calendar.

Special Education

Students eligible for Special Education Services will be provided a Free, Appropriate, Public Education according to each student's individualized education plan (IEP). To the extent possible, IEP services will be provided through both in-person and virtual learning options.

In-person Services

- Special Education Staff will provide the instructional and related services included in the student's IEP within the school building or in designated outdoor spaces.
- Campus Administrators will work with Special Education staff to ensure schedules are created to ensure IEP services are provided, while minimizing the number of students each staff member serves.
- Shared spaces utilized for Special Education services will include barriers and strategically spaced student and staff seating as necessary to align with social distancing guidelines.
- Speech and Related Service providers will create schedules in collaboration with campus administration to ensure students remain with peers in their assigned classrooms as often as possible.
- To the extent possible, Speech and Related Services staff will be assigned to campuses across the district to minimize the number of campuses, students and teachers that are served by a single provider.
- Speech Therapists, Dyslexia Teachers, Sign Language Interpreters and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teachers will be provided with clear masks and face shields to utilize during instruction and therapy sessions.
- Students and General Education Teachers participating in the Regional Day School Program for the Deaf will be provided clear face masks and face shields to use during instruction.
- Individual materials will be provided to each student whenever possible to minimize student contact with shared materials.
- Student IEPs will be developed and revised as necessary through IEP Amendment or an ARD Committee Meeting.

Virtual Services

- Special Education Teachers will collaborate with General Education Teachers to ensure instruction and assignments are appropriately accommodated and/or individualized for each student.
- Special Education Teachers will provide individualized instruction as indicated in student IEP's in accordance with BISD's Online Learning Plan.
- Speech and Related Service Providers will implement IEP services via teletherapy, parent consultation, and individualized therapy plans provided to students.
- Certain service providers require verbal and/or written consent to provide teletherapy services.
- Special Education Providers will regularly monitor and document student participation and progress in virtual instruction and therapy.
- Special Education Teachers and Providers will provide additional strategies, supports, and instructional opportunities to students who are not making adequate progress.
- When additional supports are not sufficient in meeting student needs, teachers and providers should request an ARD committee meeting.
- Student IEPs will be developed and revised as necessary through IEP Amendment or an ARD Committee Meeting to address student needs associated with virtual instruction.

Specialized Safety and Health Considerations

- Students with disabilities will be provided visual supports, specialized instruction, and additional supervision as necessary to promote health and safety guidelines established by BISD, including hand washing, social distancing, moving safely from class to class, and eating and playing safely.
- In certain environments, additional Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves or air purifiers will be provided as necessary.

Bastrop Works Transition Program

- The Bastrop Works Transition Program will follow all District guidelines for onsite and online instruction.
- The Bastrop Works Transition Program will follow all District Health and Safety guidelines.
- Students attending virtually will receive the services in their IEP to the extent possible given the nature of the program and community based components.
- Student IEPs may be revised by an IEP Amendment or ARD Committee meeting as necessary.
- Community-based services will include the following health and safety precautions:
 - Vehicles will include plastic shields between seating areas when possible.
 - Community outings in vehicles will be limited to a group size that can reasonably adhere to health and safety guidelines.
 - Students and staff will be required to wear masks and/or face shields for the entire duration of a community outing.
 - Community outings will be limited to those absolutely necessary for the implementation of a student's IEP.
 - Meals will be prepared in accordance with District guidelines.

New
7/30/20

Special Education Programs Online

The Department of Special Programs and Services is working to develop a robust, daily online instructional program. While each student's instructional program will be individualized to meet their unique needs, the following chart includes a summary of the instructional services being designed categorized by instructional program.

Co-Teaching/Inclusion

- ★ Co-Taught Live Lessons with General Education Teacher
- ★ Individualized Assignments and Activities
- ★ Small Group Live Lessons
- ★ Office Hours with SPED Teacher
- ★ 1:1 and Small Group Support
- ★ Regular contact with SPED Teacher to organize and prioritize time and assignments

Resource Reading and Math

- ★ Lessons provided by SPED Teacher (live, recorded, and individual check-ins)
- ★ Monitored time on Special Education computerized programs
- ★ Office Hours with SPED Teacher
- ★ 1:1 and Small Group Support
- ★ Assistance with prioritizing and completing assignments

Life Skills

- ★ Daily Live and/or Recorded Lessons
- ★ Unique Learning Online Program developed and monitored by Life Skills Teacher
- ★ Visual Supports provided to the home
- ★ Learning kits with manipulatives, materials, and paper-based instructional supports
- ★ Individualized Vizzle program monitored by Life Skills Teacher
- ★ 1:1 and Small Group Support
- ★ Regular family and student support from Life Skills Teacher

Regional Day School Program for the Deaf

- ★ Co-Taught Live Lessons with General Education Teacher
- ★ Live Lessons provided by Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Teacher
- ★ Recorded Lessons with Interpreters
- ★ Interpreting Services during Live Lessons
- ★ Closed Captioning
- ★ Individualized Lessons and Activities
- ★ Daily Hearing Checks with DHH Teacher
- ★ Hearing Aid and Device Support
- ★ 1:1 and Small Group Support
- ★ Office Hours with DHH Teacher

Bastrop Works

- ★ Daily Live and/or Recorded Lessons
- ★ Virtual Community and Work-Based experiences
- ★ Visual Supports provided to the home
- ★ Daily routines and schedules provided to the home
- ★ Learning kits with manipulatives, materials, and paper-based instructional supports
- ★ 1:1 and Small Group Support
- ★ Regular family and student support from Bastrop Works Teacher

Early Childhood Special Education

- ★ Daily Live and/or Recorded Lessons
- ★ Unique Learning Online Program developed and monitored by Life Skills Teacher
- ★ Visual Supports provided to the home
- ★ Learning kits with manipulatives, materials, and paper-based instructional supports
- ★ Individualized Vizzle program monitored by Life Skills Teacher
- ★ 1:1 and Small Group Support
- ★ Regular family and student support from Life Skills Teacher

Student Support Services

After School Programs

Bastrop ISD is proud to offer three valuable and enriching afterschool programs. The fee-based **STARS** program operates at each of our six elementary schools for students age 4 to 13 who are participating in onsite learning and require after school care. The **ACE** program is available at each elementary, intermediate and middle school campus with in-person programming for students participating in onsite learning and a virtual option for any interested students. Tutorial and family support services will be offered to all students who are part of the ACE program. The **Beyond the Bell (BTB)** program will be available for high school students who need additional in-person support services such as credit recovery, tutorials and test preparation and administration. Onsite programs will follow BISD safety protocols and DFPS regulations.

Child Nutrition

Bastrop ISD will continue to offer a nutritious breakfast and lunch each day to all of our students, whether they are ONSITE or ONLINE. Our child nutrition partner, SFE, is developing their fall meal plan using the guidelines issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture. We anticipate parents of virtual learners will be able to place an order each day using the NutriSlice mobile app, with which many parents are already familiar. We will have a designated touchless pickup area at each campus with similar safety protocols that were in place during curbside meal service the District offered in the spring and summer.

Students can receive free- and reduced-price meals if they qualify, and students who attend a school designated as CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) can receive breakfast and lunch at no cost even if they do not qualify under the income guidelines established for free- and reduced-price meals.

Counseling Services

BISD counselors will work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure equity, access and success of all students whether onsite or online counseling is offered to our students. Counselors will focus on student requests, check ins, and follow ups on students they are concerned about. They will also continue to support and incorporate aligned Social Emotional Learning lessons and support teachers with these efforts.

Transportation

Bastrop ISD covers 433 square miles., We provide bus transportation to more than 6,000 students each day on nearly 100 unique bus routes. We will continue to offer transportation for the 2020-21 school year; however, some capacity limitations may exist. We will institute safety measures to help limit the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Hand sanitizer will be required when students enter the bus.
- The bus driver and all students will be required to wear a cloth face covering, mask or face shield.
- Students must remain in their seat facing forward, according to an assigned seat on a seating chart.
- Students entering the bus will load beginning with seats at the back. The bus will unload beginning with seats in the front.
- Bus will be disinfected daily after the morning route and again after the afternoon route.



COMMUNICATIONS

BISD has created a [Back to School Planning](#) hub on the district website that will be updated regularly. In addition, the District and campuses will use Blackboard to communicate directly with families via phone, email or text; notifications and alerts through the mobile app; district and school websites; newsletters; and social media accounts.

Parents and students who have questions or concerns or who need information related to our return to school plans should contact either their school principal or the Bastrop ISD Communications Office at 512-772-7173.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bastrop ISD has worked collaboratively to establish guidelines that provide a safe teaching and learning environment for staff and students. The Back to School Planning Team was formed to develop a comprehensive logistical plan for campus daily operations that utilize effective disease mitigation strategies to promote a healthy and safe school environment.

The Back to School Planning Team was composed of teachers, administrators, students, parents, and other campus/district staff. We appreciate the work of this team and their continued guidance to the District as we monitor and adjust practices. We also value the guidance of the Bastrop County Local Health Authority and our district nurse in formulating best practices.