



FAQs

LFISD will continue to update this page on a regular basis. As TEA makes updates, some of these answers may change. We will keep you updated.

Instruction

Q. I want to ensure social distancing on campuses during test administration, and as such believe I need to reduce the total number of students on campuses on scheduled testing days. Does my district have the ability to require students who are not scheduled to take an assessment to learn remotely on testing days? [NEW January 14, 2021](#)

A. The district can submit a waiver request to require students who are not scheduled to take that assessment to learn remotely on a scheduled testing day. Please see the Spring 2021 State Assessment Guidance for additional information.

Q. How will remote instruction be handled on testing days? [NEW January 14, 2021](#)

A. Remote instruction can be an option on certain testing days. For example, if a campus cannot assess all students for specific assessments, including STAAR, TELPAS online assessments, and certain college readiness assessments (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ACT Aspire, and TSIA), during the district-scheduled assessment days and comply with local health protocols, the district can submit a waiver request to require students who are not scheduled to take that assessment to learn remotely on a scheduled testing day. Please see the Spring 2021 State Assessment Guidance for additional information.

Q. Can my district change a regular school day to be asynchronous instruction during the spring in order to provide additional planned professional development, teacher preparation days, or to focus on teacher planning and student engagement? [NEW December 10, 2020](#)

A. An LEA with an approved asynchronous plan may request a waiver to schedule periodic (nonconsecutive) asynchronous instructional days during the spring of 2020-2021 for a maximum of 2,100 minutes. For example, a school with 420-minute operation day could have one asynchronous day per month. During these days, LEAs are still required to allow all students to access on-campus instruction who come from households without internet access or appropriate remote learning devices. Districts requesting to waive ADA requirements in TEC, Sec. 48.005, to permit them to utilize additional asynchronous instruction days approved by the Commissioner will need to apply by selecting the 'Other' waiver type using the TEAL waiver application that is currently used to apply for state waivers, which requires board approval.

Q. If a student receiving remote instruction is struggling academically, with attendance, or in any other way, can a district require the individual student to come on campus? [Updated December 10, 2020](#)

A. Given certain parent concerns about the health and safety of their family during the COVID-19 crisis, LEAs who choose to offer remote instruction consistent with the requirements and exceptions of this document, including the exceptions listed in the preceding question, must ensure those families have access to remote instruction unless the LEA determines that the

student's attendance and/or academic performance in one or more classes puts them at significant risk of severe learning loss, as outlined in the criteria below. In these cases, the LEA must provide notice to the student's parents, provide opportunity for appeal for medical or other reasons, and hold a meeting (which can be virtual) if required by the appeal. If an LEA follows these steps fully, they may ultimately discontinue remote learning as an option for a student while continuing it for other students.

1. If an LEA wishes to discontinue remote instruction for individual students (as opposed to for all students, or for particular grade spans of students), the LEA must submit an attestation to TEA.
2. An LEA can identify students to be discontinued for remote instruction if one or both of the following are true in any class:
 - Student has a class average of 70 or below (or the equivalent)
 - Student has 3 or more unexcused absences in a grading periodUPDATED 12/10/2020 21 LEAs can decide on criteria that include one or both of the above, and may make the thresholds more lenient (e.g., only identify students who have a class average of 65 or below, or only those who have 4 or more unexcused absences). However, the LEA must apply the criteria consistently for all students in a particular grade.
3. LEAs must notify parents at least 2 weeks prior to requiring the student to come on campus, with language consistent with that provided by the TEA sample.
4. Parents may agree to change their child's learning environment to on-campus, or may appeal in one of two ways:
 - Submitting a medical exemption. LEAs must provide an opportunity for parents to email this exemption request to the district or campus, along with medical authorization.
 - Requesting a transition meeting. If the parent requests a transition meeting, the LEA must schedule the meeting with no less than 3 days notice, and must allow the student to continue to learn remotely until the meeting has been held. The transition meeting for a student who receives special education and related services must include the members of the student's ARD committee. For more information about considerations for students receiving special services, please see the SY 20-21 Special Education FAQ on the TEA COVID-19 Support and Guidance site.
5. If the parent does not appeal or if, at the conclusion of the transition meeting, the LEA does not conclude with the parent that the student can be successful learning from home, the LEA may require the student to transition to on-campus learning. As a reminder, parents can choose for their students to transition to on-campus instruction at any time (subject to a local restriction, if implemented, to align with grading periods, as described elsewhere in this document). When students are struggling academically in the remote setting, teachers and principals should talk to families about their options before making any remote instruction setting change. Certainly, health and safety of the student and their family should remain the primary consideration. Assuming those considerations are addressed, there are a few issues that should be considered when discussing with families the educational benefit for a student to return to campus. First, with a few exceptions, TEC, §25.092, requires students to attend at least 90% of the course in order to obtain credit. This applies to individual course subjects at the secondary level, and to all grade levels at the primary level. Students who cannot meet this requirement while enrolled in public school may be required to repeat the grade and/or subject the following year. Second, truancy laws still apply to students enrolled in public school but who are not attending (either remotely or in person), although school systems have flexibility in their approach to truancy enforcement. Third, course grades may still be an issue. Semester grades are issued based on local policy, but in the event local policy supports it, students who

ultimately fail to earn a passing grade for a course (or an entire grade level) could be required to repeat the course (or grade level).

At the conclusion of the back-to-school transition period or transition period extension, is my LEA required to allow all students back on campus who wish to begin in-person instruction or can we wait until the beginning of the next grading period? Posted November 19, 2020

At the conclusion of your back-to-school transition period or transition period extension, all students who wish to attend on campus must be allowed back on campus, even if the end of the transition period does not correspond to the beginning of a grading period. However, LEAs can require those students who chose at the beginning of the current grading period to continue receiving remote instruction but who now wish to pursue on-campus instruction to remain as remote learners for the remainder of the grading period. At the beginning of the next grading period, those remote students would then have the option to change their instructional delivery method to the on-campus option.

Q. If a campus experiences a number of confirmed COVID-19 cases that impacts a significant number of instructional staff such that on-campus instruction may temporarily no longer be feasible, can the LEA restrict on-campus access to the specific campus? Posted November 19, 2020

A. For campuses that have already opened to on-campus instruction, an LEA may restrict student access to on-campus instruction and instead offer those families remote instruction for up to 14 calendar days, if a significant number of the instructional staff at the campus is impacted due to a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak, such that the campus can no longer be sufficiently staffed for instruction even when making appropriate operational adjustments. In such cases a 14-day period would allow for enough time for the virus incubation period to be completed. The campus access restriction and resulting offering of remote instruction must be limited to the specific campus being impacted. A closure period does not end until the campus has reopened for on-campus instruction for at least one instructional day. The restriction of on-campus instructional access could take the form of shifting to a hybrid instruction method at the campus (with, for example, a subset of students attending on campus on alternating days while receiving remote instruction on alternating days) or being fully remote, subject to the caveat that students without Internet access or appropriate learning devices at home whose parents want them to attend on campus are still required to have access to on-campus instruction during this time. Any instructional days offered in this scenario would still count toward the 75,600 operational minutes requirement. Effective November 18, notification must be given to TEA using the Request to Restrict Student Access to On-Campus Instruction Due to Confirmed Instructional Staff Cases of COVID-19 on Campus form. The requests are approved upon receipt.

Q. How can a student who receives remote instruction be administered a STAAR EOC assessment during the December 2020 administration window? New November 5, 2020

A. To ensure equity for all students, a student must be present at a monitored testing session and must be supervised by a trained test administrator to participate in the Texas assessment program. The December 2020 administration has been extended to a two-week online testing window (December 8–18) to give districts more flexibility in scheduling assessments and more opportunity to test all eligible students. TEA is not able to extend the paper testing window to

two weeks because of the time required to ship, process, and score paper testing materials and maintain reporting dates. Districts should continue to follow local and state guidance to ensure proper social distancing and handling of materials.

Q. What do I do if a student is required to quarantine during the testing window before he or she has an opportunity to participate in the December 2020 STAAR administration?

New November 5, 2020

A. For any eligible student (receiving remote or in-person instruction) who is required to quarantine during the testing window before he or she has an opportunity to participate in the December 2020 STAAR administration, the district should indicate “A” for absent in the SCORE CODE field. For these cases, the district has an opportunity to submit a medical exclusion for each student at the end of the testing window.

Q. May our LEA offer fully remote instruction on Election Day since some schools serve as polling sites? **NEW October 8, 2020**

A. School systems locally control their instructional calendar. As a result, school systems can choose locally to schedule a day to be closed for instruction or open for instruction. School systems can locally choose to close for Election Day, just as for any other day. However, schools must continue to ensure they have an instructional calendar that meets the 75,600-minute requirement. School systems must offer on-campus instruction for those families that wish their students to attend on campus consistent with the requirements and exceptions listed in this document. In one exception example, if a school system is still operating within an approved start-of-school transition period, the school system could choose to restrict most (but not all) students from attending on campus on a given day while the remaining students receive remote instruction. If no exceptions apply, and a school system chooses to offer only remote instruction for a given day rather than to close for the day as a whole, the school system would still be required to ensure sufficient instructional minutes are offered in the year, excluding that day, to reach the 75,600-minute requirement for the year.

Q. Can my LEA require masks for voters on Election Day? **NEW October 8, 2020**

A. While the Governor’s Executive Order does not permit mask requirements in a polling place, schools can and should continue to enforce mask requirements for individuals who are in the school for any purpose other than voting on Election Day.

Q. Is my school system required to offer remote instruction? **NEW October 15, 2020**

A. No, school systems are not required to offer remote instruction to the general student population. Please note, however, that remote instruction may be required for individual students, if a particular student’s individualized education program (IEP) or Americans with Disabilities Act accommodation requires remote instruction. (For more information about considerations for students receiving special services, please see the SY 20-21 Special Education TEA COVID-19 Support and Guidance site.) Providing remote instruction to the general student population is a local decision and one that can be modified by the LEA during the school year. As indicated in the guidance provided within this FAQ, any parent may request that their student be offered virtual instruction from any school system that offers such instruction. However, this does not mean that school systems are required to provide remote instruction throughout the school year. If a parent requests virtual instruction and the school does not offer it, the parent may enroll in another school system that does offer it for transfer students.

Q. Are there specific requirements LEAs must follow to discontinue providing remote instruction as an instructional model? **NEW October 15, 2020**

A. Yes. If an LEA decides to discontinue providing remote instruction, they must give a 14-day notice to

parents and notify parents of the option to transfer to another district for remote instruction. Those school systems that have discontinued remote instruction prior to the date of this clarification, even if remote instruction were discontinued without adequate advance notice, must still ensure parents are aware of their options to continue remote instruction by transferring to another school system.

Q. Can my LEA provide remote instruction to certain categories of students or only under certain circumstances? **NEW October 15, 2020**

A. An LEA may offer remote instruction to all of their students, or may target remote instruction to only certain students under the following circumstances: • Only for students who are sick or quarantining. A LEA may provide remote instruction to students who are self-isolating or staying at home because of a positive COVID-19 test, COVID-19 diagnosis, COVID-19 symptoms, or close contact with a positive COVID-19 individual. LEAS can also during this school year provide remote instruction to students who are sick with other illnesses but still able to participate in instruction. • Only for specific grade bands. A LEA may provide remote instruction to certain grade bands, i.e. • All grade 3 students • All grades 5 and 6 students • All middle school students • Etc. • On a case by case basis for certain special education students and students with Section 504 accommodations. Please see the SY 20-21 Special Education FAQ on the TEA COVID-19 Support and Guidance site for more information. Additionally, certain non-core courses in secondary may only be offered in an on-campus setting, limiting student access to some remote instruction courses. For more information, see the Electives and Extracurricular section of this document.

Q. If a student receiving remote instruction is struggling academically, with attendance, or in any other way, can a district require the individual student to come on campus? **NEW October 15, 2020**

A. Given certain parent concerns about the health and safety of their family during the COVID-19 crisis, LEAs who choose to offer remote instruction consistent with the requirements and exceptions of this document, including the exceptions listed in the preceding question, must ensure those families have access to remote instruction. As a result, discontinuing remote instruction in a way that only targets struggling students is not permitted. While a transition to on campus for targeted students can't be required, parents can choose for their students to transition to on campus instruction at any time (subject to a local restriction, if implemented, to align with grading periods, as described elsewhere in this document). When students are struggling academically in the remote setting, teachers and principals should talk to families about their options. Certainly, health and safety of the student and their family should remain the primary consideration. Assuming those considerations are addressed, there are a few issues that should be considered when discussing with families the educational benefit for a student to return to campus. First, with a few exceptions, TEC, §25.092, requires students to attend at least 90% of the course in order to obtain credit. This applies to individual course subjects at the secondary level, and to all grade levels at the primary level. Students who cannot meet this requirement while enrolled in public school may be required to repeat the grade and/or subject the following year. Second, truancy laws still apply to students enrolled in public school but who are not attending (either remotely or in person), although school systems have flexibility in their approach to truancy enforcement. Third, course grades may still be an issue. Semester grades are issued based on local policy, but in the event local policy supports it, students who ultimately fail to earn a passing grade for a course (or an entire grade level) could be required to repeat the course (or grade level).

Q. Can my LEA require students that are currently receiving remote instruction to come on campus periodically for some academic purpose? **NEW October 15, 2020**

A. Yes. LEAs can require students to come on campus to complete a required assignment, project, or exam for an elective course if the course requires assignments or exams that cannot be reasonably completed remotely. This is discussed in more detail in the Electives and Extracurriculars section of this document. For other courses, LEAs can require students to come on campus to complete a required assessment that plays a significant role in determining class rank or is required for graduation/grade level promotion and cannot be reasonably or equitably administered remotely. In any case a student is required to come on campus, effort should be made to ensure the student is given an opportunity to make the visit with a maximum of social distancing and in compliance with other public health mitigation steps in place,

including any mask requirements consistent with Executive Order GA-29.

Q. What is the schedule going to look like for Head Start?

A. Students will be in morning instruction with the district and will be in afternoon instruction with Headstart. Instruction will begin virtually.

Q. What will class sizes look like?

A. LFISD will implement social distancing protocols in all classrooms. Class size may vary by classroom depending on the square footage of the class, so some classrooms may have more than 10 while some may have less.

Q. Will students rotate classes during the instructional day?

A. At the elementary level students and staff groupings will remain as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff and not rotate classes. At the secondary level rotation and mixing between groups will be limited as much as possible.

A. What platforms will be used for online learning? *Posted August 21, 2020*

Our learning management system will be:

1. Google Classroom.
2. SeeSaw Prek-2nd
3. Zoom

Q. How will GPA, Class Rank, and grading be determined if working remotely?

A. LFISD traditional GPA and class rank policies will be in effect. Adjusted policies that were implemented in the Spring of 2020 will no longer apply. School grading policies and expectations for remote work will be the same as those used for on-campus assignments.

Q. Will dual enrollment classes be impacted

A. No, dual enrollment will be available.

Q. If I choose a face-to-face pathway and my child gets sick in the first 6 weeks of school, can they switch to remote?

A. Yes. If a student has a doctor's note indicating the requirement for at-home instruction, they will be permitted to complete their work online. For the period of time that they are home ill, remote learning will be available or students may make up work upon their return. Students who switch to online due to illness will remain in online school for the remainder of that six weeks.

Q. Will UIL activities be available to students learning remotely?

A. Recent guidance provided by UIL will allow students to participate in extracurricular activities regardless of their learning pathways.

Q. Will bus transportation be available for face-to-face instruction?

A. Yes, transportation will be made available with increased health and safety protocols in place. LFISD strongly recommends parents pick up and drop off their children as this is the safest way to get to and from school.

Q. When will the school year begin for students? Are there make-up days for closing?

A. LFISD is currently scheduled to begin August 24, 2020. If the district/campus is ordered closed and does NOT provide remote instruction, then the district will need to make up the days

later in the year or forego funding for the closed days. If a district is ordered closed and DOES provide qualifying remote instruction, then the district may claim attendance for remote instruction for those days even though they are fully remote during those day(s).

Q. Will the attendance policy change for the 2020-2021 school year? August 21, 2020

A. The instructional method chosen will dictate how attendance is taken. Compulsory attendance laws will apply for all pathways.

Q. Are Local Schools are required to submit an asynchronous plan for review and approval to earn average daily attendance (ADA) funding. Letter of Intent, Online Plan Submission, and plan due October 1, 2020.

A. A district should only submit one asynchronous plan. The plan will need to have the opportunity to provide details for each grade level or grade band on its instructional schedule, material design, tracking of student progress, and support for educators and families implementing the plan.

Remote Instruction Asynchronous Plan:

The district will have flexibility to earn daily attendance through an approval plan for providing high-quality instructional practices with daily engagement measures. The district can earn ADA through a primarily asynchronous plan that includes synchronous methods, called a combination method.

The plan that will be submitted will include the daily engagement, instructional materials, progress monitoring, and teacher support in order to receive daily attendance.

Once in –a person begins, and a student chooses to be remote one six weeks and then decides to be in-person, those students will be coded full-day.

Students who will generate daily attendance via remote synchronous instructional methods through the year:

Kinder-5th will be coded for full-day attendance.

Prekindergarten will be coded half-day.

6th -12th grade will be coded as half-day students.

Q. How is Asynchronous attendance measured? Daily Engagement Measures: As per TEA, the following are the approved learning plans:

A.

Daily progress through Seesaw, Google Classroom, or zoom, or chat within these platforms.

Daily progress via teacher-student interactions as approved in the plan:

Completion/Turn-in of assignments from student to teacher :

Via Email

Via on-line

Via mail

Via Phone

Via Platforms: Google Classroom and Seesaw

BandAp

Class DoJo

Students will NOT gain attendance if there is no documented engagement with Seesaw, Google Classroom, zoom, phone, or daily contact with the teacher.

Q. Will the STAAR/EOC test be given this year? Will my child be able to test from home?

A. *TEA has indicated all testing will resume for the 2020-2021 school year. Yes, as per TEA, there will be STAAR testing. All students will be required to report to school at their designated time to take the STAAR test. The updated statewide testing calendar allows for a two-week window for testing. Students will be given a schedule and will be required to report to campus on any testing date.

Q. How many hours will students need to be attending classes online to receive credit for attendance? A. August 21, 2020

A. All students will have a prescribed instructional schedule during the day.

Half day PreK - 90 instructional minutes 1 hour and 30 minutes

K through 5th grade - 180 instructional minutes 3 hours

6th through 12th grade - 240 instructional minutes 4 hours

Elementary students in grades 3-5 will be logged into their classes for a minimum of 3 hours daily during the regular school day.

Secondary students will be logged into their class for a minimum of 4 hours daily during the regular school day. (Model is a blend of asynchronous & synchronous)

Q. Will online classes be pre-recorded?

A. Not all classes will be pre-recorded, in fact, La Feria ISD recognizes the importance of interactive and engaging virtual instruction with teachers and students. Pre-K - 2nd grade students will be able to view pre-recorded lessons, but will also have the opportunity to join live streamed classes with their teacher. Students in 3rd-12th grade receiving virtual instruction will be engaged in live instruction with a teacher to be able to complete lessons through interactive videos and modules, as well as engage on their own time with their assignments.

Q. What are the learning models?

A. Model 1: Face-to-Face (pending TEA/State/Federal guidance)

Model 2: Remote (Asynchronized) 100% of the time (First three weeks will be 100% Remote).

Q. What resources are available for parents to prepare for remote learning? *Posted July 30, 2020*

A. La Feria ISD will provide parents with video step-by-step found on our Back to School site.

Q. When and how can I meet my child's teacher? *Posted July 30, 2020*

A. Each campus is working on a meet-the-teacher schedule and will be communicating dates and times with parents in the coming week.

Q.If we choose a learning model, can we change it to another model?

A. If you select a learning model, you will have the opportunity to switch to a different model

before the next grading period.

Q. Will all students need to enroll for the 2020-2021 school year?

A. Yes. Please visit the District website and select “Enroll” on the main menu. These forms must be completed using a computer, smartphone or iPad. If you need assistance, please call your campus for information or for an appointment.

Q. What resources are available for parents to prepare for remote learning? *Posted July 30, 2020*

A. La Feria ISD will provide parents with video step-by-step

Q. When and how can I meet my child’s teacher?

A. Each campus is working on a meet-the-teacher schedule and will be communicating dates and times which will be conducted via zoom. *Posted July 30, 2020*

Q. What is the classroom size/set up?

A. All areas of each campus will be utilized to maximize distance between students (classrooms, gyms, libraries, lounges, etc.)

Q. Is face-to-face/In-person school just like “regular school”?

A. To the best of our ability, we will provide students a “regular” school experience while implementing safety procedures.

Q. Will students receive breakfast and lunch while they are at-home?

A. Currently, the District has received notice that we will be permitted to provide breakfast and lunch to students who are at-home. Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture has not provided details of how this will be done, we will update parents as soon as information is made available.

Q. What type of work will be sent in?

A. All work will be online. Students will be required to “attend” courses utilizing Zoom or Google Meets. All work will be submitted through Google Classroom.

Q. Will online learning be all day? Will students have access to their teachers? August 21, 2020

A. The online class times will be determined by the grade level enrolled. Students will be required to log in for all designated classes. All coursework will be submitted through:

1. Google Classroom
2. Seesaw
3. Email
4. Mail
5. Cell Phone

Q. Will courses be offered only during the day? Will there be an opportunity to complete work in the evening?

A. Courses will be online during the day. However, students will be able to submit coursework through Google Classroom within the timeframe established by each teacher (similar to homework). Teachers will establish due dates and post for parents and students.

Q. Are parents required to attend online classes with their children?

A. No. Parents should ensure their child understands how to log onto their courses, however they

do not need to be present during class time. Parents are asked to ensure their child has a quiet area designated for school attendance. (Please note, supervision of children who are at-home is not the responsibility of the teachers or staff.)

Q. Will the school provide internet service?

A. La Feria ISD has established a program to assist qualifying families with internet services for students who are attending online courses. If we choose the online option, will students have access to the teacher?

Q. Will there be live lessons?

A. Yes. Each class will have a live teacher assigned to ensure students are receiving instruction.

Q. Does my child have to be “at-home” during online instruction?

A. Each student who is enrolling in online courses will be required to log in at designated times to be counted as present. Students may log in from any location as long as they are actively engaged in the lessons.

Q. Does my child have to live in La Feria ISD to take online classes?

A. No. Children who meet Texas eligibility for enrollment may complete a transfer application and attend online classes after enrolling.

Q. Will there be online classes for Pk3 and Pk4?

A. Yes. All students who are enrolled in La Feria ISD will have access to online content.

Q. Will my child be on the computer from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM?

A. No. Students will be required to log on at designated times to live courses. Students will be assigned independent work (similar to in-class work) and will have breaks and lunch time during the “school day”.

Q. Will my child have access to on-campus resources (nurse, library, cafeteria, etc.)?

A. Students enrolled in online learning will have access to an online library. Meals will be provided as approved by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Students should refrain from coming to campus. If a need arises to report to campus, please contact your campus administrator to make arrangements.

Q. Will I need to buy additional software for my child?

A. No. All software/apps will be provided. High School students will utilize web-based apps.

Social Emotional Learning/Mental Health

Q. What is Social Emotional Learning (SEL)?

A. SEL is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Q. Who can I contact if I have concerns about my children’s social, emotional and behavioral needs?

A. School Counselors and Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP) are available for students and parents/guardians who have concerns about their children's social, emotional and behavioral needs.

Q. What days and time will school counselors/LSSP's be available during the day?

A. School counselor and LSSP's will be available for students, parents/guardian and staff from 8:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If it is an emergency, please call 911.

Q. How can I reach the counselor or LSSP?

A. You may contact your campus or email them please see listing below:
http://www.laferiaisd.org/department/guidance_and_counseling/counseling_campus_staff

Q. How will counselors continue with their presentations?

A. Counselors will have a Google classroom where students will be able to view lessons/presentations. It is also another method of communication with students.

Q. Where can I view the presentation topics for the week?

A. The counseling department will continue posting their monthly presentation calendar. The calendar will be posted on the website. The link is below:
http://www.laferiaisd.org/department/guidance_and_counseling/guidance_counseling_events

Q. How can I talk to my children about Coronavirus?

A. Children react differently to situations. If you need help on how to talk to your child during this pandemic, please visit the link below:

https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20200315_News_MindShift_Newsletter&mc

tm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20200315_News_MindShift_Newsletter&mc

A. Helping children cope with emergencies link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html>

A. Mental Health and coping during COVID-19 link:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fmanaging-stress-anxiety.html

Elementary Specific

Q. Will the elementary school offer the same instructional delivery options as the junior high and high school?

A. Yes

Q. Will students enrolled in PreK-3 and PreK-4 have face-to-face instruction?

A. Yes, if parents request it.

Q. How will P.E. and recess take place in school?

A. Face to face in person will occur based on CDC guidelines and limited activities. Remote will be with P.E. Coach based on schedule

Q. What measure will the district take to ensure social distancing in the secondary grades?

A. Although the CDC and TEA have not yet released their final guidance, La Feria ISD has taken measures to limit unnecessary congestion in the hallways (i.e., social distancing, sanitizing, and other daily practices). However, once provided, La Feria ISD must follow the guidelines accordingly. We are confident that in every case, we will meet any guidelines provided by the TEA with regards to cleanliness and safety. We will provide information to parents as soon as it becomes available.

Secondary Specific

Q. Will my child have options to have resources for each CTE course they are enrolled in?

A. Yes, each CTE course will have online resources to support learning.

Q. How will students participate in courses that require hands-on learning applications/experience in CTE such as welding, construction, and Health Science programs?

A. If parents choose a virtual learning experience for their child, then students will be provided with online learning experiences as closely as possible through the online learning platforms. It is, however, preferred that students attend in-person classes at least twice a week in order that students demonstrate mastery of the concepts in order to be better prepared for the industry certification exams. While strongly recommended, these certification exams are optional and not required for each student to pass the class.

Q. What safety precautions will CTE teachers take during their instructional face-to-face classes?

A. Students will be provided with safe environments that follow as close as possible to the current TEA guidelines.

Q. Will my child still be able to take dual enrollment courses?

A. We are working with TSTC and UTB-Brownsville to make arrangements for online learning. We will notify parents with updates as they become available.

Q. What about college assessments (TSI, ACT/SAT, ASVAB, AP)?

A. La Feria High School has established a process for testing TSI at-home. Information is forthcoming. ACT, SAT and ASVAB are currently only available on campus. A schedule will be sent to parents in the Fall. In the Spring of 2020, the College Board allowed students to test AP at-home. No information has been released regarding this allowance for the Spring 2021.

Extracurricular Activities

Athletics

Q. What is the start date for practices?

A. At this time, the earliest time will be September 28, 2020 based on the Cameron County Order.

Q. Will there be a football season?

A. We are waiting for guidance from Cameron County and U.I.L.

Q. How is the safety of the athletes monitored in the locker rooms?

A. Lockers will not be used to avoid any contact.

Q. Will my son/daughter be able to participate in extracurricular activities if they are learning remotely?

A. Yes, students will be able to participate.

Q. When will W.G. Green start extracurricular?

A. We will consider their start date when in-person instruction occurs, September 21, 2020.

Q. Has the district worked on tentative schedules for all fall sports?

A. Yes, schedules have been created, pending guidance from Cameron County and U.I.L.?

Q. Are all districts in 4 A aligned with the same starting date of September 21, 2020?

A. No.

Q. Will extra-curricular activities be offered?

A. All UIL activities will be scheduled in alignment with any guidance from UIL and TEA. Due to the on-going nature of this situation, modification of travel arrangements and student attendance at away games may be impacted.

Q. Will there be athletics?

A. Yes

Special Education/Dyslexia/504 services

Q. How will the district provide services for students that have been identified with special needs?

A. La Feria ISD remains committed to providing the same two options for students who receive services in any program offered in our District (on campus learning or remote learning).

Q. Does the provision of FAPE require a district to implement the student's IEP exactly as it is written for Traditional (face-to-face) instruction during remote learning?

A. The Texas Education Agency has clarified that under the IDEA guidelines, the ultimate standard for FAPE is whether services are reasonably calculated to enable the child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances. Certainly, our circumstances are very different than they are during traditional methods of instruction for which the IEP was written. Every effort will be made to provide all services included in the student's current IEP that are appropriate and necessary in a Distance Learning Environment

Q. How will students with special needs work remotely?

A. Students will be provided with an electronic device that meets their needs based on their IEP. Please contact your child's campus to inquire about the availability of technology devices to support your child's learning and provide the support needed for implementing your child's

IEP/Dyslexia Plan or Section 504 Plan. All learning platforms will be accessible on the student's designated device. Devices and hotspots will be available for check out for students who do not have access to technology at home.

Q. How will IEP and evaluation timelines be impacted by remote learning?

A. IDEA and Section 504 timelines remain in effect, La Feria ISD will ensure each special education student receives equal access to educational opportunities as provided to general education students.

Q. Will students continue to receive Instructional Services (Speech/Adaptive PE) and Related Services during remote learning?

A. Yes. Special education staff will continue to provide Instructional and Related Services to students through remote learning opportunities. Providers will be in contact with parents/adult students regarding the provision of services and to obtain consent for teletherapy services.

Q. Will I still be able to have an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) meeting for my child?

A. Yes. There is no provision for extending the due date of an Annual IEP Meeting. Each student's IEP must be reviewed by a properly constituted ARD Committee at a minimum annually. The ARD Committee will meet by teleconference or other means and develop IEPs based on traditional methods of instructional delivery.

Q. How will students in Life Skills be served through remote learning?

A. Students in Life Skills will receive all their specialized instruction from their Special Education Teacher using their approved curriculum. The students will be provided with an electronic device that meets their needs based on their IEP and all learning platforms will be accessible on the student's designated device. Devices and hotspots will be available for check out for students who do not have access to technology at home. Every effort will be made to provide all services included in the student's current IEP that are appropriate and necessary in a Distance Learning Environment

Q. Will students in Special Education and 504 receive accommodations?

A. Yes. All accommodations will remain in effect. Campuses will schedule parent meetings at the beginning of the year to review accommodations and health plans to ensure all students receive assistance as outlined by each individual education plan.

Bilingual/ESL Program

Q. Does the district have the flexibility to discontinue bilingual and/or English as second language (ESL) programs during an emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. No. La Feria ISD has an obligation to provide equitable access to the curriculum for English learners through bilingual education and ESL programs. We must continue to provide educational opportunities to the general student population during the closure, the school must ensure that English learners also have equal access to the same opportunities. LFISD must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each English learner can be provided language program services commensurate with the student's English language proficiency level.

Q. What are the priority LPAC duties for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year?

A. Priority LPAC duties at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year include the following: Identification of potential English learners within the first four calendar weeks of the students' enrollment as feasible and documents in the student's permanent record the reasons for which the timeline was extended.

Completion of the extended timeline for determining English learner reclassification through the first 30 calendar days of the 2020-2021 school year.

The extended timeline for the first 30 calendar days begins August 24, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. If your campus is unable to complete the reclassification process within the extended timeline in the fall, the LPAC documents the reasons for which the timeline was extended, including the plan for completing the process in a timely manner. Communication to parents/guardians on English learner progress and continued program participation decisions within the first 30 calendar days of the 2020-2021 school year (Parental Report on Student Progress).

Q. What continued adjustments to the LPAC responsibilities are available during the 2020- 2021 school year?

A. The LPAC may use the following provisions:

Alternative meeting methods, such as o Phone or video conferencing

Use of electronic signatures that adhere with LEA policy

Optional LPAC parent representation (although highly encouraged)

With potential for on-campus and remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year, are LPACs required to complete the English learner identification process within the required four calendar weeks of a student's initial enrollment in Texas public schools.

As with other circumstances beyond the LEA's control, the LPAC attempts to complete the English learner identification process within the four calendar weeks requirement, as feasible, and documents in the student's permanent record the reasons for which the timeline was extended.

Important notes:

The English learner identification assessment (preLAS/LAS Links) cannot be administered virtually. Any virtual assessments given are invalid and cannot be used for identification of English learners.

If a student is assessed for English proficiency prior to a period of school closure, the LPAC may meet through alternative meeting methods (phone or video conference) in order to complete the identification.

If the student is identified by the LPAC, the student's parent is notified of identification, and parental approval may be obtained in writing or through an email or documented phone conversation.

The summer or intermittent breaks (holidays, planned or unplanned periods of closure, etc.) can be used to complete the identification process, per local health regulations.

For students transferring from other Texas public schools, previous LPAC identification documentation should be obtained and utilized to continue program services.

Q. Can a student be placed in a bilingual education or ESL program while English learner identification is pending?

A. Yes. English learners who are awaiting parental approval can be temporarily placed in a bilingual education or ESL program. During periods of school closures or intermittent breaks due to the coronavirus pandemic, providing temporary instructional support for potential English learners to ensure prompt access to program services when the identification process is delayed.

Potential English learners include those for whom the Home Language Survey indicates a language other than English is used either in the home or by the student most of the time, but the identification assessment has not yet been administered.

Additional anecdotal data may be collected on the potential English learner to determine instructional supports, such as informal analysis of English proficiency using the ELPS Proficiency Level Descriptors, educational history from student and/or family interview/survey, analysis of previous school records from another state or country, etc.

A student cannot be formally placed in program services (by indicating in TSDS – PEIMS) and cannot generate Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds as an English learner until he/she has been identified as an English learner by the LPAC and parental approval for program services has been received. Funding for program participation as an English learner begins on the date of parental approval for program services.

Q. If a student's pre-kindergarten placement is dependent upon English learner eligibility, can the student be placed in prekindergarten while English learner identification is pending?

A. Yes. If the student does not meet any other prekindergarten eligibility criteria, the student may temporarily participate in prekindergarten until English learner identification is completed. Parents/families must be informed that continued pre-kindergarten participation is pending based on English learner eligibility.

Q. Can we choose not to reclassify any English learners for the 2019-2020 school year?

A. No. The LPAC must consider English learners' individual readiness for reclassification. Additionally, the LPAC cannot make statements that would indicate a refusal to reclassify any of their English learners. It is important that English learners are provided the opportunity to demonstrate language proficiency, particularly those who have demonstrated a potential for reclassification. These students include those for whom the LPAC and/or classroom teachers have documented readiness for successful participation in grade-level content instruction delivered without second language acquisition support.

Q. What if a student was unable to complete all four domains of the 2019-2020 TELPAS?

A. The English Language Proficiency Assessment component of the reclassification criteria cannot be fulfilled with partial TELPAS data. If all four domains of the 2019-2020 TELPAS were not completed, the LEA may administer the LAS Links Assessment only to English learners who have demonstrated a potential for reclassification with an extended testing window through the first 30 calendar days of the 2020-2021 school year.

Grade 1: Listening and Speaking:

Grades 2-12: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

It is important to note that TELPAS and LAS Links scores cannot be combined to meet reclassification criteria. Also, if the LAS Links assessment is used at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year to determine reclassification from the previous year, the student should be assessed with the grade level assessment for which the student was enrolled in the 2019- 2020 school year.

Migrant

Q. Who can I contact for information about the Migrant Education Program and/or any of its related services?

A. You may contact the Migrant Education Program (MEP) at 956-797-8324.

Q. Will the identification and recruitment of migrant students continue?

A. Yes. Local migrant recruiters will continue to actively identify and recruit every school age child of eligible migrant parents residing in the state. Recruiters will conduct interviews with migratory families by telephone, video conferencing, or other electronic means to obtain the information necessary to complete the Certificate of Eligibility (COE)

Q. Will the Migrant Education Program (MEP) continue to provide supplement services?

A. Yes. The MEP staff may use telephone or video conferencing to assess the immediate needs of migratory children and their families, and work to address those needs either directly, or by connecting the families to other available resources while serving Priority for Service (PFS) students first.

Q. Will Migrant Parent Advisory Council (MPAC) meetings be held?

A. Yes. MPAC meetings may be conducted remotely (e.g. landline phone) or via any virtual platform accessible on participants' mobile phones, tablets, and/or computers. This includes social networking platforms, which may be more accessible than virtual meeting technology for some parents.

Technology

Q. What tools are available in remote learning?

A. The district will provide a device and hotspots to those families with no internet. The learning management system will be Google Classroom along with a variety of other software programs used in conjunction with learning.

Q. Will my child be penalized if the internet is not working and he/she cannot complete his/her assignment?

A. The student must notify the teacher through email, Zoom, or phone so that extra time is given to the student.

Q. Can my child opt to use our own device?

A. So long as the device meets the specifications needed for the lessons.

Q. If students need technical assistance or are “locked out” of their device, who can assist with this?

A. Technology Help Desk phone number will be made available for you to call for technical assistance.

Q. If a student chooses to use their personal device (laptop and/or Ipad), will the campus technician be able to work on the device if there are technical issues?

A. No. Only school provided devices will be available to be worked on by campus technicians.

Health and Safety

Q. Are immunizations still required?

A. Yes. At this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements.

Q. Will masks be required of all students choosing the face-to-face model?

A. Yes, a mask will be required. LFISD will provide two masks for each student. Students will have multiple opportunities to remove their masks. The decision on when and where students may remove their masks will be based on age-appropriateness and provided that social distancing may still be maintained.

Q. What will class sizes look like?

A. LFISD will implement social distancing protocols in all classrooms. Class size may vary by classroom depending on the square footage of the class, so some classrooms may have more than 10 while some may have less.

Q. Will meals be provided to students learning remotely?

A. Yes, LFISD will continue our Meals to Go program for students learning remotely. A schedule will be released before the start of school.

Q. What is LFISD doing to ensure the health and safety of students and staff?

A. LFISD has implemented many new health and safety procedures. Please visit this page for a comprehensive listing of the measures we are taking.

Q. Will visitation to schools be limited?

A. Yes, the CDC recommends limiting any non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations. The CDC recommends school districts pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, and other activities as possible.

Q. Will lunch and PE settings change?

A. Yes, social distancing will be implemented in lunch and PE settings to ensure the health and safety of students.

Q. Will staff members be required to wear masks for in-person instruction?

A. It is recommended that staff wear a face mask when reporting to campus, but this decision will not be made until August once we know what the situation is like at that time. We monitor the constant changes that are made. It all depends on many factors and guidelines that are in place once school starts. Please keep in mind that the rules and restrictions change on a constant basis.

Q. Will the district be providing thermometers and PPE for each staff member or classroom?

A. We already have the PPE and have ordered thermometers. Staff and students should provide their own masks since they are required statewide. Some will be available for emergencies.

Q. Will parents be able to accompany their elementary children to classrooms when in-person learning resumes?

A. Parents will not be allowed on campus during a normal school day.

Q. Will parents be allowed to drop off lunches for students districtwide?

A. No, parents will not be allowed to drop off food.

Q. Will students transition to several classes or will they remain in the same room?

A. All classes will have limited transitions for safety purposes.

Q. What other safety precautions are being taken to ensure all staff and students are sanitizing their work areas?

A. Every computer lab, keyboarding station, and tabletop in every classroom will have disinfectant wipes or gloves. Students will be expected to use gloves or wipe the stations before and after their use. Students walking in and out of classrooms will have easy access to these stations. The La Feria ISD Maintenance Department has ordered enough hand sanitizing stations for each classroom to have. TEA has also pledged significant gallons of hand sanitizer for each district.

Q. Will the district conduct temperature checks for students?

A. The District does plan on conducting temperature checks for all students. If a student has been exposed to the virus and was required to be off campus, temperature checks will be required upon the student's return for 3 days. The TEA has not released their final guidance on social distancing, wearing masks, and other daily practices. However, the District will continue to monitor the guidance and make further changes as needed.

Q. Will teachers and school staff be required to get their temperature checked?

A. All employees will be screened before entering the campus. It is recommended that staff wear a face mask when reporting to campus, but this decision will not be made until August once we know what the situation is like at that time. If a staff member has been exposed to the virus and was required to be off work, temperature checks will be required upon the staff member's return for 3 days. Teachers will be provided training on maintaining social distancing during instruction.

Q. How will the district approach cleaning and disinfecting school busses and transportation vehicles?

A. We will purchase additional cleaning equipment and supplies with the understanding that buses will be disinfected more frequently and thoroughly. In addition, we plan to systematically clean and disinfect all buses and transportation vehicles before and after routes. Furthermore, if busses have transported a passenger or driver who tests positive for COVID-19 the bus will be taken out of service and only be used after deep cleaning and disinfecting them.

Q. How will the district address social distancing on busses next school year?

A. Our goal is to assign drivers to a single bus and a specific route. As well as establish consistent driver assignments for extracurricular activities. Students will be assigned a single bus and all

students will be required to social distance by being assigned to a specific seat. Bus drivers will be required to wear cloth face coverings or plastic shields and follow the COVID-19 prevention strategies.

Q. How will the district address congregating at bus stops?

A. Additional bus stops and routes may be added when necessary. We are in the process of determining if physical barriers or space is needed between the driver and the student passengers, when feasible.

Q. What will be the nurse protocol when a student is sick?

A. When a student feels ill, the nurse will evaluate the student based on symptoms. The nurse will determine if the symptoms warrant sending the child home from school. Please note, the nurse will use medical history to make a determination regarding the student's requirement to leave school.

Q. Will staff be trained on health and safety?

A. Yes. All staff will be trained during in-service week.

Q. Will the State "shut down" schools for COVID-19?

A. At this time, TEA has indicated that they will not require school districts to shut down for COVID-19. In the case of a school closure, students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities through online courses. Students will be required to log onto all courses for attendance and submitting work.

Q. What will happen to those students who are exposed to someone with COVID-19?

A. All possible safety measures will be implemented to limit the number of people each student is exposed to. In the case of an exposure, students will be sent home and additional deep cleaning will be completed. Parents will be notified of possible exposure within four hours of the school receiving notice. Students who test positive will not be permitted to attend school until released by a doctor.

Q. If teachers or kids get Covid-19, will the entire class be required to quarantine?

A. Schools will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. Schools will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as possible.

If an individual who has been in a school is lab-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).

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 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

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 school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities.

Q. Will students be allowed to take their own hand sanitizer or will the school be providing them?

A. Both. Parents may send hand sanitizer with their child if they choose. If parents send hand sanitizer, we recommend that you attach the hand sanitizer to a belt loop to prevent the child from going to their backpack or losing the hand sanitizer. Additionally, the District has installed additional hand sanitizer throughout the campuses. Students will have access to hand sanitizer stations in each classroom, cafeterias, hallways, offices and throughout the campus.

Q. Will there be a face mask policy in place?

A. Yes. Face masks will be required (students and staff) in all common areas (hallways, offices, etc.) or when within six feet of another person. If a student's health plan requires an adjustment to this requirement, please meet with your campus administrator. Additional considerations will be made based on a student's age and social distancing is maintained. LFISD will provide each student with a shield. Parents are asked to ensure that children bring their own mask to school each day. Masks must follow dress code.

Q. How will the school handle students with pre-existing health conditions?

A. The campus nurse, administrator and the parent will schedule a virtual meeting and review individual health plans for each student prior to the beginning of the school year.

Q. How are school buildings being cleaned/sanitized? Will the same method be used once the are students on campus? Is it safe for children?

A. LFISD has established a cleaning schedule that will increase the number of times campuses will be cleaned. Additionally, the District has purchased additional foggers to be used daily in high traffic areas.

La Feria ISD has worked with local and state officials to develop protocols and procedures to provide a safe environment for students.

Q. What safety guidelines are in place for students?

A. The District has established a variety of screenings for student safety. Daily temperature checks, health screeners and monitoring of all students and staff will happen upon entering the school facility. All persons entering a District facility will be required to complete a temperature check

and health screenings. The District will restrict access to visitors to campuses. Additionally, the District will implement a “no delivery” policy at each campus.

Q. Will students and staff be required to take a COVID-19 test prior to returning?

A. Based on consultation from local and state officials, schools may not require COVID-19 testing. For students or staff who test positive, a medical clearance from their doctor will be required to return to school.

Q. Will the District provide masks or other safety items for students and staff?

A. Yes. The District will have limited supplies of gloves, wipes and spray available for staff and provide facial shields for students. All nurses will have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for use in COVID-19 related cases. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Students should bring their own mask.

Q. If my child changes his/her mind on class selections, will schedule changes be allowed?

A. Yes. Limited schedule changes will be made based on need and graduation plans. We ask parents to contact WB Green Junior High School or La Feria High School with schedule change requests prior to the first day of school. Students will not be permitted to change their schedule after the first week of school.

Q. If students are behind in credits, will they be given the opportunity to complete these classes?

A. Yes. Please contact your child’s campus to obtain information regarding credit recovery.

Q. Can students take additional credits and qualify to graduate early?

A. Yes. Procedures for requesting early graduation will remain the same. If you would like to request an early graduation option for your child, please contact the high school counseling department.

Q. Will safety protocols be in place for athletics/games/practices?

A. Yes. Students and staff will continue safety protocols similar to those implemented during strength and conditioning.

Q. Can parents choose face-to-face or online for each individual child from the same household or does everyone from the same household have to choose one learning option?

A. Parents may choose face-to-face or online learning for each child. Please be sure to submit your request each six weeks.

Transportation

Q. How will students be seated on buses?

A. Students will have assigned seats on buses. In an effort to reduce contact with others, the bus will be filled from the back to the front. Students will be assigned seats with others who live in the same household to the extent possible.

Q. What resources are available for parents to prepare for remote learning? *Posted July 30, 2020*

A. La Feria ISD will provide parents with video step-by-step

Q. When and how can I meet my child’s teacher?

A. Each campus is working on a meet-the-teacher schedule and will be communicating dates and

times which will be conducted via zoom. *Posted July 30, 2020*