



ARANSAS PASS INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION
AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

2021-2022

Meeting All Students' Needs

APISD's Plan is contingent upon CDC guidance and state updates as environmental conditions change.

PLAN FOR THE SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

The Texas Education Agency recently announced the availability of \$11.2 billion in federal funding made available to school districts through ESSER III under the American Rescue Plan. This is a substantial sum of money, though amounts vary significantly from district to district. The Aransas Pass ISD website will be used to communicate with our staff, parents, and community members about the ESSER III funds (ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief). ESSER III funds are federal funds sent to the states to help cover costs associated with learning loss due to COVID-19 and the cost of online instruction, facilities improvements, and the pandemic.

Aransas Pass ISD is proud to have offered the opportunity for in-person instruction for all students during the 2020-21 school year. Thanks to the support of our faculty, staff, students, and community, we developed our return to school plan in the summer of 2020 with full consideration of public comment and feedback. We have persevered throughout the year, despite the occasional setback, to keep students in school and to maintain open lines of communication with our entire school community. For the 2021-22 school year, APISD will continue to provide full in-person instruction, after school activities, and extracurricular programs. This declaration of commitment to providing the best environment for our students, is meant to satisfy the requirements for accepting additional funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

The top priorities of Aransas Pass ISD are the safety and academic success of all students. As Aransas Pass ISD continues to provide in person learning; protocols and information for parents have been updated for the 2021-22 school year. These protocols, addressing CDC recommendations, will be revisited every 6 months to address any changes.

Aransas Pass has and will continue to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan for the uses of ESSER III funds to be utilized for safely opening and operating for in-person learning according to the CDC guidance. The funds will address the academic impact of lost instructional time through implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as in-school accelerated instruction and summer learning at all grade levels. APISD ensures that the interventions to be implemented will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English Language Learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

APISD is committed to the following:

1. Follow the Center for Disease and Control and the Texas Education Agency guidelines to keep our students and staff safe.
2. Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated closing-the-gap growth opportunities.
3. Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
4. Keep schools open all year without experiencing school closure. All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.
5. Entering into the 2021-2022 school year Aransas Pass ISD plans to continue the learning initiatives it has established and will provide new learning opportunities for our students. All APISD employees and students will continue with in-person instruction in the Fall of 2021. All APISD school operations will return to normal (prior to COVID19) with health and safety protocols implemented.

PART I.

PROPOSED COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The protocols in this document are developed with guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the State of Texas Governor's Office, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Texas School Safety Center (TSSC), local government entities, as well as input from APISD Administration. The protocols outlined in this document are subject to change based on the most up-to-date information made available to APISD.

Please contact the campus nurse for COVID-19 questions or concerns you may have concerning COVID-related procedures and protocols.

APHS 361-758-3248

AC Blunt 361-758-2711

Charlie Marshall Elementary 361-758-3455

HT Faulk Elementary 361-758-3141

Return to Learn

Aransas Pass ISD will return to 100% in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. We are excited to welcome everyone back into our buildings. At this time, no remote learning options will be offered. APISD highly recommends face coverings when indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

We will continue to monitor and reassess as conditions dictate. The District may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees and the community. The following guidelines are in accordance with direction from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the State of Texas.

Face Coverings

For the 2021-2022 school year, Aransas Pass ISD highly encourages students, staff, and visitors to wear face coverings. Face coverings are not *required* while on campus or at school activities at this time. We will continue to monitor and reassess as conditions dictate.

Aransas Pass ISD will continue to work with the San Patricio County Health Department and follow recommendations from this entity should health conditions change in our area.

Vaccinations

Per Gov. Abbott's order, Aransas Pass ISD cannot require students or staff to get vaccinated. At this time, the State of Texas has not added the COVID-19 vaccination to the required immunization list for students. Aransas Pass ISD cannot require students or staff to report vaccination status.

Visitors and Meetings

- Visitors will not be allowed at this time due to high levels of transmission.
- **EXCEPTION:** Campus-called parent-teacher conferences are permitted. Conferences will be held socially distanced and masks will be encouraged.

Screening

- APISD asks individuals to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Employees and students must notify the school system if they are test-confirmed with COVID-19 and remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school. **Parents should not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19.**

Close Contact - Students

- Household-based close contact students should stay at home for 10 days after close contact.
- The stay-at-home isolation can end for students experiencing no symptoms after the 10 day period. Students would return to school on the 11th day.
- Absences for close contact will be excused absences.

Close Contact - Staff

- Fully vaccinated staff who meet the household-based close contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual, these staff may continue to work on campus highly encouraged to wear a face covering. Rapid testing must be performed periodically from the date of last contact with a COVID-19 positive individual during the 10 day post exposure period.
- Staff who are not fully vaccinated who meet the close household-based contact threshold with a COVID-19 positive individual shall remain off campus during the stay-at-home period.

Positive COVID-19 Cases/COVID-19 Related Symptoms

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or believes he/she has symptoms related to COVID-19, they should call their campus nurse prior to coming to school.

If an employee tests positive for COVID-19 or believes they have symptoms related to COVID-19, they should call their immediate supervisor at earliest opportunity. The supervisor should call/text Wayne Bennett at extension 1003 or call Sally McCutchan at extension 3030. Employees will need to call Pam Bennett at 361-758-4200 extension 1201 for isolation dates and other pertinent information.

When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment. Students will be sent home if the nurse determines the symptoms may be from COVID-19.

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) are determined to have the symptoms of COVID-19, must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until all three conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

***Parents MUST contact the campus nurse prior to sending a student back to school if the absence was due to any COVID related isolation.**

***Employees MUST contact Human Resources, Pam Bennett at 361-758-4200 or pbennett@apisd.org prior to returning to work if you have missed work due to any COVID related isolation.**

If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive, and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain two PCR acute infection tests (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) at least 24 hours apart that come back negative for COVID-19.

APISD may request a medical note in any situation where the above standards are not clearly met.

Notifications

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must make it known to the public if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

- APISD will send out notifications to each secondary campus where a COVID positive individual has been present.
- APISD will send out notifications to each elementary classroom where a COVID positive individual has been present.
- Extracurricular cohorts will be notified by their sponsor/coach when a COVID positive individual has been present.
- APISD will post weekly COVID-19 case counts for each campus and grade level at www.apisd.org/covid.

The District is required to report positive cases to the Department of State Health Services. **Absences**

If a student must isolate after testing positive for COVID, the school/teacher will implement the following:

- The teacher will work with the student and parent to provide make-up work to the student, understanding there is not a remote instruction option available.
- Teachers may utilize the appropriate LMS (i.e. Google Classroom) to provide students with work to be completed.

- The student will submit make-up work as noted in the student handbook (one school day per day of absence) after returning to school.
- Devices may be sent home with isolating students upon principal approval.
- Employees must use personal leave time or comp time while they are isolating.

Additional Mitigation Procedures

- Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in all classrooms, and in common areas throughout the campus.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Custodial staff will work during school hours to ensure the cleanest and safest learning environment. The custodial staff will deep clean each classroom and use the electrostatic foggers each day in all areas of the building.
- Custodial staff will perform additional cleaning in areas of heavy use (classroom, restroom, workroom, etc.) for any individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 while at school.
- Campuses will close off areas that are heavily used by individuals who are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 until the surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
- Restrooms and bottle-refillable water fountains will be disinfected twice per day.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- Custodial and Transportation Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction. Appropriate supplies will be made available to classroom staff as needed.
- Custodial staff will electrostatically disinfect classrooms, restrooms, the athletic facilities, weight room and all additional areas in the building on a rotating basis.

Transportation

- Buses will be disinfected daily.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided on all buses.

- Due to the close nature of seating on school buses, face coverings are highly recommended. Bus drivers will have masks available for those who wish to wear one while on the bus.

Off-Campus Student Activities

- Student participation in extracurricular contests (Athletics, UIL, etc...) will be allowed. Fans will also be permitted to attend these events with no limitations unless District, UIL, or TEA guidelines state otherwise.
- All field trips require approval of the campus principal.

On Campus Activities

- All school wide events (pep rallies, student assemblies, informational meetings, etc...) will be allowed. Parents and community member attendance will be limited during instructional hours. After hours, there are no current limitations unless District, UIL, or TEA guidelines state otherwise.
- Students and spectators will not be required to wear face coverings but are highly recommended.

COVID-19 Testing

- APISD has Abbott BinaxNOW rapid COVID tests.
- Testing allotments are based upon staff and student counts. You must be a student or staff member employed by the school system, or a school board member to be eligible to receive testing.
- Testing procedures and protocols are available on our website at www.apisd.org/covid/covidtesting.

PART II.

INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Even though COVID-19 has been challenging, APISD continues to move forward responding to the pandemic and addressing student learning loss. APISD's plan has been created to be flexible as governing authorities and/or health officials update us on present situations of the environmental conditions affecting our protocols for safety.

Assessing/Addressing the Impact of Learning Loss

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

More Instructional Time to Address the Impact of Learning Loss

Aransas Pass ISD will offer additional learning opportunities that may include:

- During the day during in-school accelerated instruction to recapture the learning loss
- Summer School
- Credit Recovery

APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS FOR ACCELERATIONS

Key questions for APISD staff when determining the most appropriate interventions for acceleration:

- **Where** is each student in their mastery of critical skills and concepts?
- **What** interventions are most effective?
- **When** will accelerated instruction and learning take place?

RIGOROUS INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND TEACHER SUPPORTS

- Career Tech Courses at the Secondary Level
- Accelerated Reading at the Elementary Level
- Professional Learning Community weekly/daily lesson planning and design (PK-12)
- Increased use of technology in the classrooms (PK-12)
- Extracurricular Programs (6-12)
- Savvas Learning Company -- Math and Science (3-5)
- Think Central - Reading (3-5)
- Generation Genius (3-5)
- Khan Math Academy (3-5)
- Reading Plus (3-8)
- IXL - Math (3-8)
- Ascend Math (6-8)
- Imagine Learning Math (PK-2)
- Implementation of Google Classroom
- SeeSaw (PK-5)
- BrainPOP (PK-5)
- Waterford PK-2)
- Learning A-Z (K-2)
- Implementation of Star 360 - Reading and Math to assess student growth (PK-12)
- Accelerated Instruction built in to the master schedule (K-12)
- TEKS Resource System (K-12)

IN SCHOOL ACCELERATION

To address lost instructional time, APISD administrators are asked to think differently when building a master schedule that includes opportunities for in-school interventions and enrichments.

Common Planning and Collaboration: Educators and grade-level teams should have built in time for common planning and collaboration through Professional Learning Communities. Teachers should coordinate and plan additional support for students within the context of grade level work. High-quality lessons are focused on individual student needs and on the mastery of the standards.

High Quality Assessments: APISD teachers will use diagnostic and formative assessments that provide timely information to help teachers know where to focus for particular students. We will focus on differentiation instruction and provide immediate and prescriptive interventions. Create and administer standards-based assessments such as quick checks, bell-ringers, exit tickets, formative assessments, and timely progress monitoring.

Power Standards/Essential Standards: Each grade level/ content area will identify the critical content on which to focus. Identifying and focusing on the most essential standards will guarantee a viable and guaranteed curriculum that builds a solid foundation within and across the grade levels.

College/Career Pathways: APISD will continue to provide pathways that are rigorous academic coursework for college and work-based learning.

HB4545: REQUIRED part of HB 4545 must attend accelerated instruction in the subject area in which they Did Not Meet passing standards for STAAR or EOC. Students cannot be removed from foundation curriculum, enrichment curriculum, or recess/physical education.

Any student who did not meet passing standards for STAAR during the 2020-2021 school year will be provided accelerated instruction before or after school, or embedded during the school day, and meet HB4545 requirements.

Any student who did not take STAAR during the 2020-2021 school year and is not meeting grade level requirements on the Star 360 - Reading and/or Math at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year will be provided accelerated

instruction before or after school, or embedded during the school day, and meet HB4545 requirements.

Accelerated Learning Committees and Plans: APISD is committed to each child's growth and development. For monitoring and guiding purposes, Accelerated Learning Committees will help in the development and implementation of individual accelerated learning instruction plans for each student that did not meet approaches on the previous STAAR assessment. These plans will detail the areas of accelerated instruction needed by the student, the plan for progress monitoring, assessment data, and the actions and tools that will be provided for the student. This plan will be documented in writing with a copy provided to the student's parent or guardian.

Student-Ratio Services for reading and math interventions are provided in small groups to maximize the instruction. Typically groups will range from 5-7 students. If a parent chooses to not waive the 3:1 ratio for accelerated instruction, we will accommodate for the required 30 hours of instruction for any student who failed a STAAR or EOC course, or is not meeting grade level expectations on Star 360 in Reading or Math.

- During interventions, help and guidance on current and ongoing learning will occur. As this is school instructional time, students are expected to be in the classroom or designated learning space.
- The in-school accelerated instruction time provides students the opportunity to:
 - Complete assignments
 - Practice presentations
 - Study for tests & quizzes
 - Receive help from a teacher
 - Make progress on long-term assignments
 - Collaborate with classmates on group assignments
 - Reduce homework
 - Improve skills in a specific area
 - Engage in a personal passion project of interest
 - Engage in differentiated and personalized instruction based on areas of needing improvement

TRACKING STUDENT GROWTH AND DATA

District will track student data through DMAC. Progress monitoring will occur and ALP (Accelerated Learning Plans) will be updated after each PLC, following unit assessments aligned with the TEKS Resource System. District will create a spreadsheet to track student data; updated on Data Meeting days and aligned with the assessment calendar. (SEE BELOW)

				Testing Calendar 2021-2022			
	BOY Testing (STAR 360/CLI/TXK EA)	MOY Testing (STAR 360/CLI/TX KEA)	Benchmark s/ Semester Exams (Cumulative over only what has been taught)	Mock Tests (Full released STAAR test)	Interim Assessments	EOY Testing/ Finals (STAR 360/CLI/ TXKEA)	STAAR
Faulk	August 30 - September 24	January 24-28	NA	NA	NA	May 9-20	NA
Charlie Marshall	August 30 - Sept 24	January 31-Feb 4	November 30-Dec 10 (Reading and Math) January 18-21 (Science and Writing)			May 9-20	May 10-20 Reading, Math, Science
A C Blunt	August 30 - September 24		January 18-21 (All Subjects)		February-Math/Reading March/April-Sci/SS		May 10-20 Reading, Math May May 5-20 Science May 6-20 Social Studies
APHS	NA	NA	January 18-21			English I and II	December 7-17- AI, B,

						and non-STAAR-tested subjects	USH
							December 7 EI, Dec 9 EII
							April 5 EI, April 7 EII
							May 3-13 AI, B, USH
							June 21-July 1 AI, B, USH
							June 21 EI, June 23 EII
		*Used in Board Reporting					

PART III.

MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS

Aransas Pass ISD will continue to utilize various programming, resources, and partnerships that benefit the mental, social and emotional needs of the student.

District Initiatives:

- Partnership with Social Workers to provide outreach/services to students and families
- PBIS Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Continue with community partnerships to benefit the whole child
- Ensure continuity of Food Service program providing all student free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year
- Continue to build strong relationships among students, families and educators
- Explicitly teach critical social, emotional, and academic skills
- Provide supportive and specific feedback to encourage skill growth across all domains
- Classroom counseling lessons
- Weekly check-ins for any students
- Daily check-ins for students who struggle with behavior
- Various classroom visits daily
- Immediate crisis counseling
- Parent consultations if needed by phone or meeting
- Monthly guidance lessons
- Partnership with Communities in Schools for academic and attendance intervention
- Partnership with Connections for group counseling
- Individual counseling provided as needed
- Array of speakers scheduled for 2021-2022
- Be the One Event to build leadership capacity
- Emerging Professionals Partnership

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

APISD staff will participate in ongoing professional activities throughout the school year. Various learning will be tailored to support teachers in delivering excellence in the classroom to get more than 1 year of growth in 1 year. Some support includes:

- K-3 Teachers attending Reading Academies August 2021-May 2022
- Weekly Professional Learning Communities and planning time
- New teachers participate in on-going district-wide support
- Assessment Training
- TTESS
- Eleven Professional development/Blended Learning Planning days built into school calendar