



July 6, 2020

Dear Plano ISD Parents,

As a school district, we want nothing more than to welcome our students back into our schools on August 12. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district plan is to continue to provide the excellent education that our community expects, which will include both in-person and virtual learning environments. As the public health crisis continues, we have been planning for the opening of the 2020-21 school year with a focus on the health, safety and well-being of our staff, students and community.

While Plano ISD is planning for two different instructional environments, please know that we will follow recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. We are also awaiting further guidance from the Texas Education Agency.

The situation with COVID-19 is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep our students safe. Therefore, we will adjust our plans accordingly, so please understand the need for flexibility and potential modifications to the plans we have outlined below. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the coming school year, it will be our priority to keep our community informed of those changes and updates. Our District website will provide you with the most up-to-date information.

Plano ISD families will be able to choose from two different learning environments:

- **Face-to-face:** Students and teachers will attend class in-person, five days a week, with additional safety measures in alignment with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.
 - In this setting, teachers will provide face-to-face instruction, learning resources and support utilizing Google Classroom.
 - Teachers will plan instruction that is easily transferable from face-to-face to remote in the event of a temporary school closure due to COVID spread.
 - Social distancing requirements will be implemented to the greatest degree possible.
 - District-directed and campus-designed safety procedures will be implemented.
 - All staff and students will receive training on safety and health protocols consistent with TEA, the District and CDC guidance in the areas of:
 - Health screenings and use of personal protective equipment
 - Classroom and campus social-distancing including the plans for the design and layout of classrooms, grouping of students, use of common

areas such as bathrooms, water fountains, lockers, clinics, playgrounds, cafeterias, gyms, library, art room, music room, etc., as well as classroom transitions and use of hallways

- Reducing touch points and increased cleaning
- Cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and other areas
- Arrival and dismissal procedures
- Campus visitor policies and school events

- **PISD School@Home Program:** Parents will have the choice to select this program which is virtual (remote) learning consisting of both synchronous (live) and asynchronous instruction.

- Teachers will teach School@Home students from their classrooms or other assigned PISD facilities.
- In this setting, teachers will provide instruction, learning resources and support through the use of Google Classroom.
- Parents will support their students to ensure they have access to a device, a place to work and are engaged in virtual learning activities.
- We will utilize the same curriculum as students who attend face-to-face instruction and will design strategies for learning in the remote environment.
- Students enrolled in School@Home will be assigned a virtual class schedule and must be available for live, synchronous instruction during each school day.
- Attendance will be taken based on synchronous participation and completion/progress toward class expectations.
- Grading will be consistent with the guidelines and practices used in all face-to-face instruction.
- Students in grades 6-12 choosing School@Home may be able to participate in on-campus classes for extra-curricular activities (in accordance with UIL requirements) and/or electives that cannot be offered in the School@Home setting.

- **Additional Considerations for Secondary Students (Grades 6-12) :**

- Students who attend face-to-face instruction will be scheduled into the courses they selected last spring during course selection.
- All core courses will be offered in **both** settings.
- Some elective courses for students who select PISD School@Home may require the student to complete a required assignment or project at the campus if the course requires assignments that cannot be reasonably completed remotely, e.g., automotive technology, welding, a/v production, etc.
 - We are working to finalize which elective courses will require in-person assignments; later in July, more information will be made available to better assist families with their elective choices
 - Students who select PISD School@Home will be contacted at the end of July regarding their schedule if the elective courses requested require an in-person component

As a family, you will select which environment you feel is best for your student(s). If you determine that your student(s) will attend face-to-face, at school, there is no action needed. If you wish to select the School@Home program (fully remote), you must do so using [this form](#). In order to plan appropriately, we are asking all parents who are selecting School@Home to submit this request by **Monday, July 13**. Receiving this information early will help Plano ISD plan for student schedules, staffing and preventative health and safety measures.

Your School@Home selection for your student will be in effect for the first nine-week grading period. Further guidance beyond the first grading period will be provided after the start of the school year. If you do not select School@Home (remote) learning by Monday, July 13, your child's campus will automatically schedule your student in face-to-face classes for the fall semester. We recognize that situations may develop warranting a potential change in your original choice. After July 13, please contact your child's campus directly if you need to discuss changes to your selection.

We value each of our students and families and appreciate the trust you have placed in our school system. We look forward to seeing you for the 2020-21 school year.

Visit the Plano ISD website at www.pisd.edu/2021planning for regular updates regarding our 2020-2021 back-to-school plans, which includes frequently asked questions. If you have any questions, please direct them to askPISD@pisd.edu.

Sincerely,

Sara Bonser
Superintendent