



2020-2021
Leonard ISD
Back-to-School Plan

(updated with the latest TEA guidance on 9/2)



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Leonard ISD Back-to-School Plan

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Leonard ISD's Back-to-School plans will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in the City of Leonard, Fannin County, and surrounding area. Please know that Leonard ISD will follow recommendations for school opening and operations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year, and this document will be updated as conditions change.



Health and Safety Protocols and Guidelines Infection Control Measures

- **Schools will abide by any Governor's Orders regarding face coverings.** Currently everyone age 10 or older will be required to wear a face covering during the school day. Therefore, students in 4th grade and above will wear face coverings at school during this Executive Order. Parents of students in PK-3rd may allow their child to wear a face covering, which is recommended, but it is not required at this time.
- If the Governor's Order ceases, it will be recommended that students and staff wear face coverings when they cannot maintain social distance as well as in hallways and common areas and during arrival and dismissal. Face coverings include cloth masks, disposable masks, face shields or anything else that provides covering over the nose and mouth.

*Please note that if the number of cases in Leonard and other data points increase past a certain threshold, regardless of a Governor's Order, face coverings may be required in the future. ***In following guidance from the Texas Education Agency, Leonard ISD reserves the right to require students, staff or visitors to wear a face covering while in school buildings/property, at school events and/or on school transportation if it is deemed necessary for health or safety reasons.***

*Students taking in-person Dual Credit courses from Grayson College at LHS will be required to wear a face covering while in class **There is a chance these classes could shift online at Grayson College's discretion. If they are held in-person, enrolled students will follow the Grayson College health requirements.*

*It is important to note that if students or staff come into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of age, **they will be required to self-isolate for 14 days if they were not wearing a face covering or other factors that are taken into consideration (following TEA guidelines).** See definition of "Close Contact" in this document.

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet will be encouraged at all times,
*Please note that under any scenario where all students are allowed to attend every day, that social distancing will not be possible to the recommended extent as there is not enough square footage in our classrooms, campuses or on buses. We will maintain social distancing as much as possible in these situations.

- Water fountains will be available for filling of water containers only. Students will be encouraged to bring a clear, refillable water bottle daily with their name on it; however, students will not be allowed to drink from the water fountains for safety reasons.
- Staff will work to try to maintain social distancing at restrooms where possible.
- Parents are encouraged to provide their child personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE will be provided by the school if requested. All PPE must be free of inappropriate messaging or symbols, etc.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands.
- Students will have instruction on effective hand-washing. Elementary students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before eating, following restroom breaks and after recess. All secondary students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.
- Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.



Health Screenings

- Staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Any staff member with symptoms should report this to their supervisor and not be on campus.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school. If students are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Any student arriving at school with symptoms will be sent directly to the school nurse for a health assessment.
- During the day, teachers/staff will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Visitors are required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building **See Visitor section for more information.*



Daily Campus Operations

- Arrival - Doors WILL NOT be open until 7:30am (for all campuses except for High School Dual Credit Classes). Early bird arrivals are strongly discouraged. Any students dropped off before the building is

open will not be able to gain access inside the building until supervision begins. Any exceptions would need to be specifically arranged with campus principal.

- Dismissal - Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, and bus riders will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time. There will be bus procedures based on campus specific needs.
- Separate entrances/exits may be utilized for car riders, bus riders, and walkers based on campus specific needs as determined by the principal and shared with parents prior to the first day of school.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Campuses will review options to reduce large group gatherings at the start and end of the day as well as other events.
- Visual aids will be used to illustrate appropriate spacing and traffic flow throughout the building.
- Restrooms will continue to be disinfected throughout the day and classrooms will have surfaces disinfected daily. LISD will use electromagnetic sprayers to disinfect common areas.
- Plexiglass or other protectant barriers may be installed in high-traffic public areas (reception desks, cafeteria cashier carts, cafeteria tables, etc.).
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transitions to reduce high-touch areas.
- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established. For hallways where this is not possible, students will be encouraged to stay to the right to social distance during transition times.
- Staff will work to try to minimize group traffic at campuses with lockers where possible.
- Custodians will wear face coverings and gloves during work hours.
- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas (gyms, cafeterias, libraries, etc.), including how to sanitize between use. Hand sanitizer will be available in all common areas.
- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, distancing of students, etc.
- Additional campus specific information will be sent home by each campus prior to school starting.



Classroom Environments

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- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students.
 - *It is important to note that due to the size of most classrooms at LISD, we will not be able to place students 6 feet apart, but will distance as much as room allows.
- The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited.
- Desktop dividers may be utilized when social distancing space is decreased in classrooms.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily by janitorial staff.

- To support contact tracing, students will have assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the classroom teacher.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies where possible.
 - *Students in grades (4-12) will be issued an individual device to reduce sharing of devices. Some tech devices are currently back-ordered so there may be a delay in checking out devices.
 - *Students will use their own art supplies.
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible. Classroom groups working outside will maintain at least 12 feet of social distance between other classroom groups.



Cafeteria Meals

- Cafeteria staff will wear face coverings and gloves and will follow all health & safety protocols.
- Breakfast, lunch and break times will be staggered as much as possible.
- Visitors will not be allowed to come to school during meal times to eat with students until further notice.
- Students may remove face coverings while eating and drinking but should maintain social distancing.
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after meals.
- Students should not share food or drink.
- Meals will be in disposable packaging and condiments and pre-wrapped silverware to be included with all meals.
- “Grab and go” meals for breakfast may be utilized to lower numbers in the cafeterias.
- Lunch tables and chairs will be adjusted across cafeterias to maximize space between groups as much as possible. Tabletop dividers may be used to help maintain adequate spaces at tables. Classrooms, gym space, hallways and other areas may be used during meal times to promote social distancing.
- Where possible, cohorts will be grouped together to eat lunch with maximum space in between cohorts.
- Plexiglass shields/barriers will be used at cashier carts.
- All payments for meals are encouraged to be submitted online through My School Bucks to limit the passing of money. Students will not touch keypads to enter lunch numbers.
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches.



Recess/Specials

- Elementary and Intermediate students will have recess and specials.

- Campuses will limit the number of students per recess group. Staggered schedules can be utilized when needed.
- Playground equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis using a portable sprayer.
- All students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer before entering the playground and upon exiting the playground.
- Specials - PE classes will be conducted outdoors whenever possible depending on temperature/weather. Face coverings do not have to be worn when exercising. When indoors, appropriate social distancing measures will be followed as much as space allows. Music, PE, and technology equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use. Social distancing will be enforced in the library to the extent possible and equipment will be sanitized after each use.



Outdoor, On and Off-Campus Student Activities

- Any school wide events that are approved to be held on campus (athletic or competitive events, performances, etc.) need to adhere to social distancing requirements outlined by LISD, TEA and UIL. Certain school-wide events will be live streamed and/or occur virtually, when possible.
- Large school-wide events/gatherings will be postponed until further notice.
- If meeting in person is required, groups should utilize larger meeting spaces that will allow for social distancing or multiple meetings should occur.
- Student travel will be limited this school year, and virtual field trips will be used in the place of destination field trips during this COVID situation.
- Extracurricular travel will follow the protocols provided by LISD, UIL and TEA.



Restrooms

- Proper handwashing will be expected and consistently reinforced.
- A system will be implemented to identify the number of occupants that can utilize each restroom to mitigate the chance of exceeding maximum occupants per social distancing.

- Teachers will use appropriate judgment to allow for restroom breaks during class time. Hand soap will be available in all LISD restrooms.
- Restrooms will be sanitized throughout the day.



Transportation/Bus Routes

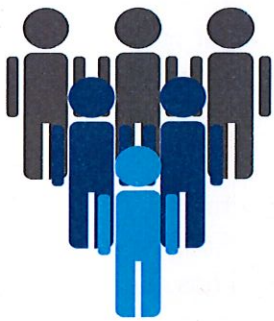
- Parents will be encouraged to transport their children to school daily as it is the safest means of transportation due to COVID-19; however, the district will continue to offer bus services for those qualifying for transportation services.
- Face coverings/shields will be required of all riders regardless of age as long as it is developmentally appropriate as it is not possible to socially distance on the school bus. Please note that **if your child does not wear a face covering and there is a positive case, they may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.**
- Bus drivers will wear a mask or face shield whenever students are entering and exiting the school bus.
- To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver/monitor. Students from the same family will sit together whenever possible.
- All buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers placed in the stairwells for use when loading/unloading.
- All buses will be sanitized daily.
- Bus windows will be partially opened during routes to provide for additional ventilation where appropriate depending on weather.



UIL Athletic/Extracurricular Events

- Practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from LISD, UIL and TEA. This will include COVID screening, limiting group sizes, sharing and sanitizing of equipment, locker room usage, spectator guidelines, etc. Hand sanitizing stations will be in gyms and other athletic facilities.
- Locker room use will be determined by LISD, TEA and UIL. If locker rooms can be accessed, all locker room space will be utilized to follow social distancing guidelines.

- Spectator attendance at games and contests will be limited to 50% capacity based on UIL guidelines as of July 21, 2020. Face coverings are also required per state guidelines.
- Event procedures will be in place to minimize face-to-face interactions. Separate entrances and exits may be utilized and event doors may be propped open to minimize physical contact with handles. Spectator seats may be marked and/or configured in a way to enforce social distancing.
- Concessions and/or concession sales may be limited to encourage social distancing and to follow health and safety guidelines.
- Students in band will be trained in proper health procedures while playing instruments in practice and live events. Social distancing will be maintained to the extent possible. Hand sanitizer will be encouraged before and after practices and performances. Band, music, choir, athletics and cheer classes will follow UIL health recommendations.
- Bus travel will follow transportation guidelines provided by LISD and TEA.
- Large group practice sessions, sectionals and rehearsals will adhere to social distancing guidelines provided by an authorized entity (LISD, TEA, UIL, etc.).
- Off-campus performances will only be conducted if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (LISD, TEA, UIL, etc.).
- Performances may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts. Performances will be streamed online when possible.
- Booster club meetings should be held virtually to minimize outside exposure to campuses.
- All district guidelines will continue to be adhered to.
- Please refer to the following link with the latest UIL updates <https://www.uilTEXAS.org/policy/covid-19>.



Visitors to Campuses/District Buildings

- Visitors will be restricted for those essential to school operations. Parents will not be allowed to eat breakfast/lunch at the school until further notice. Please limit dropping off items for students during the school day.
- All visitors who enter the building are required to wear a face covering.
- Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible.
 - *Social distancing is encouraged for all meetings that are not able to be virtual.
- Any visitor who needs to go beyond the front foyer will be subject to a health screening.
 - *Visitors required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building.

*Any visitor who has COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms or has come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.



Isolation Procedures Related to COVID-19

- If a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide an assessment to determine if and when a student/staff needs to be sent home.
 - *If a student or staff member is assessed and exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, the current student or teacher's class will be relocated to an alternate area while the room is being disinfected.
- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the nurse screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - *In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - at least one day (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.
 - *In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
 - *If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 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 or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, at an approved testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/> or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- Students or staff who come into close contact with a test-confirmed individual such as being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

- District communication will be provided to the staff and students/parents who came in contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 (See Notification Procedures below).
- LISD will immediately sanitize all areas that had exposure from someone who tested positive. In the event that this cannot be done before the start of the next school day, the district may need to close for a day to complete this process if relocating students is not an option.
- Any student requiring quarantine will transition to Remote Learning for the period of self-isolation.



Health Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Students or staff who are present with symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse.
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present in a staff member, they will be sent home. A student with symptoms will be isolated from other students and asked to put on a face covering until parent arrives. Students should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time parent/guardian was contacted. If student can't be picked up within the 1 hour time frame, parent/guardian will need to have an alternate person pick them up. If the ill student drove to school, they will be sent home after the school receives parent permission to allow them to leave campus after being notified.
- Nurse will notify campus administrator to move the staff or student's class so that the space can be disinfected.
- Student will be escorted to vehicle upon parent/emergency contact arrival.
- Nurse will provide parent/staff with Return to School Criteria.
- Contact tracing for test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted.

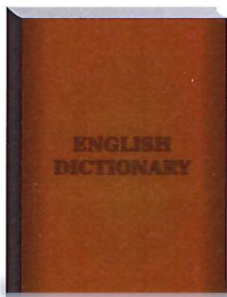


Notification Procedures Related to COVID-19

- 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 test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities. If you were determined to have had close contact you will be individually contacted.
- Contact tracing for test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted to determine those in close contact.
- Close contact is defined as:
 - *being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed; or

*being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Example: An intermediate student tests positive in the fifth grade. All intermediate school parents are notified that a student has tested positive at the campus. Through contact tracing, the district determines along with guidance from the public health agency, who has been in close contact and contacts those families to determine next steps (which may or may not include self-isolation depending on if face coverings were worn, extent of contact, and following other TEA guidance, etc.).



Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals will be asked if they have recently experienced any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea or Vomiting



Definition of "Close Contact"

This document refers to "close contact" with an individual who is test -confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency working with school officials. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic Individuals who are test-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.



Return To School Criteria

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - *at least one day (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.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 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 or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, at an approved testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/> or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- All employees must complete a **COVID-19 Reporting Form** if suspected/diagnosed.

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Instructional Delivery Models

Leonard ISD will provide a high-quality education through two instructional delivery models:

- In-Person Learning (Traditional Classroom Experience) - Students attend school on campus all day and participate in face-to-face, on-campus, direct instruction from a teacher in a classroom setting.
- Remote Learning - LISD may utilize a combination of the following methods:
 - *Two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. (Synchronous Instruction)
 - *Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time.

In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or computer-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students. (Asynchronous Instruction). See below for more details.

Parents will be asked to **commit to one of these two learning environments between July 31 - August 7**. Parents may contact the school to change their preference up to August 7th. ***Once the school year begins, parents will need to wait until the end of the six weeks grading period to transition to a different learning environment unless there is a special circumstance that warrants the need to transition sooner.***



In-Person Learning

- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12
- Students in 4th grade and above are required to wear a face covering at all times, as appropriate, in following Governor's Orders.
- Student's individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Accommodation requests should be submitted to the campus principal.
- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face-to face learning on campus each day for all day.

- Students in grades 4-12 will follow their class schedules by transitioning to different classrooms for course instruction following staggered schedules and/or social distancing guidelines.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and Remote Learning will be the same.
- Implementation of preventive safety measures
- Once a student chooses In-Person instruction as their learning environment, they must remain in-person for the grading period before they're able to make a change in their learning environment.



Remote Learning

- Available for students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12
- Students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities on our Remote Learning Platforms.
- Teachers will utilize similar curriculum as students who attend in-person instruction and will design strategies for learning in the remote environment.
- Daily student participation in the learning activities will be required (each day students will have to show “engagement” in order to be marked present in the form of submitting work, interacting with teachers on progress of content or in engagement on our online learning platform).
- Attendance will be taken daily and attendance laws will be followed. Students should understand that Remote Learning attendance is based on daily engagement, and not solely the completion of assignments (ex. If a student completes work for the week on Monday, they will be counted present that day but then absent Tuesday-Friday if they do not show daily engagement each day). State law TEC §25.092 and Leonard ISD Policy FEC (LOCAL) and (LEGAL) still require students to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted.
- A caregiver will need to be available to support younger students in navigating the daily schedule and providing assistance with the learning as needed.
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and Remote Learning will be the same.
- Some electives (secondary levels) may only be available in an In-Person format and remote learners would have to travel to campus for those courses if they choose to enroll in them (transportation not provided).
- Unit tests and other assignments deemed as a test grade may be proctored virtually through Zoom or Google Meet at the secondary level.
- **Remote Learners will be able to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs and organizations**, both during the school day and before/after school. Transportation will not be provided. **Students must still meet attendance and grading requirements.**
- Once a student chooses Remote Learning, they must remain online for the six weeks grading period before they're able to make a change in their learning environment unless a special circumstance arises.
- Accommodations and support services will be provided to all remote learners.

- Sufficient internet connection is required (internet hotspots are currently back-ordered due to statewide demand).
- Leonard ISD will have remote hot spots available behind the LHS Gym and in the circle drive of Leonard Elementary School between the hours of 6:00am-10:00pm for remote learners that do not have access to high-speed internet or a hotspot.
- District computer devices provided based upon request and availability. Note - some devices are currently back-ordered so a delay in checking out devices may occur. This is a common occurrence statewide, so TEA is assisting to help with this process.



Expectations for Families Choosing the Remote Learning Model

- Our remote learning model for students requires a lot of support from caring adults at home and within the online classroom environment
- Activities are designed to ensure that students continue learning at the pace of the current Leonard ISD scope and sequence, as well as develop a love of learning and gain the reading, writing, and mathematics skills essential to their future success.
- In keeping with state requirements for remote learning, LISD will structure the students' learning schedule to require students to participate in synchronous and asynchronous learning, depending on the identified learning model. It will be vital for teachers and parents to openly communicate the schedules for the students.
- ARD committees will determine the unique needs of students who qualify for Special Education. The "Supports and Services" identified in the IEP will be met for students selecting Remote Learning. The nature of special education interventions will likely require changes to the IEP when students are Remote Learning to ensure individual student needs are met and continued growth in the general education curriculum.
- Leonard ISD Expectations for Remote Learning:
 - *Students attend class on time
 - *Students will dress appropriately when learning virtually
 - *Students should have a designated, distraction-free workspace to engage in learning
 - *Students will show their faces on the screen to engage with the teacher virtually when required
 - *Students will participate in the class
 - *Complete asynchronous activities as assigned
 - *Students show proof of participation in daily virtual or online learning by satisfactorily completing assignments to demonstrate evidence of student learning (i.e. video, picture or activities submitted as lessons and/or completing assignments.)
 - *Students must follow the Leonard ISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct regarding behavior when online and using LISD technology
 - *Communicate with the teacher when needing additional assistance, tutoring, etc.



Online Learning Management System

- Leonard ISD will use the Remote Learning Platforms on Google Sites to house its learning activities. Students will submit work primarily through Google Classroom.
- Families in need of a device for Remote Learning should contact your child's campus office on Aug. 7 (we have some technology devices that are back-ordered, so depending on their delivery date will determine when devices are available for check-out).
- Families in need of hotspots should include this request when contacting your campus office regarding needed technology devices for Remote Learning - LISD will have a limited number of hotspots available.
- All remote learners will use Zoom or Google Meet, etc. to connect with their teacher and other students.
- Teachers/staff will provide training to students on how to use these digital tools.
- Resources will also be available for parents to learn how to support students in navigating learning through these digital tools.
- In the event that students participating in Remote Learning are required to quarantine, the education of these students will continue through Remote Learning for the duration of the quarantine period.



Social Emotional and Mental Health Support Systems

Addressing the mental health and social-emotional development of all students, staff and community by following best practices in the areas of:

- School-based mental health services
- Behavioral support systems
- Family engagement and support practices
- Staff supports
- Other key systems and supports



Social Emotional Learning

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons and activities to support students related to COVID-19 experiences, trauma, and school closure will be developed for all campuses.
- Counseling support will be accessible to both In-Person and Remote Learners.



Family Support

- Families will be provided information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness. Other resources will be shared regarding remote learning needs.



Parent Communication

LISD will provide families with information through the following methods:

- Parents will receive emails and/or phone calls from Leonard ISD, sent through the School Messenger system. This is the official communication method used for LISD. Email addresses and phone numbers will be collected from TxEIS Student Information System, so please make sure you provide this information on registration forms and keep updated throughout the school year.
- Text Messaging
- Social Media
- LISD Website
- District/Campus Newsletter
- Phone Calls
- Virtual Meetings

Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the school year; LISD will keep all parents informed if conditions change.



FAQ's

1. What are my options for my child's learning environment for the 20-21 school year?

Parents may choose between In-Person Learning at school or Remote Learning from home for the 20-21 school Year.

2. Will my child have to wear a face covering at school?

Currently, in following the Governor's Executive Orders, all persons 10 years of age and above are required to wear a face covering in public buildings where social distancing cannot be maintained. Therefore, all students in grades 4-12 must wear a face covering at school and on school transportation with the exception of when eating, drinking, and actively exercising. Students in grades PK-3 (when developmentally appropriate) are recommended to wear face coverings, but are not required to at this time with the exception of when riding on school transportation where social distancing is not feasible. *In following guidance from the Texas Education Agency, Leonard ISD reserves the right to require students, staff or visitors to wear a face covering while in school buildings/property, at school events and/or on school transportation if it is deemed necessary for health or safety reasons.*

3. Will health and safety training be provided for all staff and students?

Yes. All staff members will receive COVID-19 prevention training prior to the opening of school. All students will receive instruction on health protocols related to minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

4. How many students will be assigned to each classroom?

Leonard ISD will follow TEA guidelines for class size. At this time, the class size requirements are the same as a regular school year. The maximum number of students per class varies by grade level and also varies by class at the secondary level. If all students are attending school each day, class counts will remain the same and social distancing will be enforced to the best extent possible.

5. Will cafeterias be open and will school lunches be served?

Cafeterias will be open to serve breakfast and lunch daily. The physical setup for the cafeteria and the schedule will be adjusted to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Each campus cafeteria will be evaluated for social distancing as much as space will allow. Some students will be eating in the cafeteria, and other students may eat in the classroom if necessary. Safety and health measures will be adjusted based on current guidelines and conditions. Cafeterias will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods.

6. Will bus transportation be provided for qualified students?

Yes, transportation will continue to be provided for all who qualify. Face coverings will be required for all students riding the bus. Parents are encouraged to provide their own transportation when possible.

7. How will seating arrangements be determined on school buses?

Ridership will remain at typical district capacity. To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver or monitor. Students will be required to wear face coverings regardless of age (as long as developmentally appropriate) on the school bus since there is no way to ensure

social distancing on buses. Hand sanitizer will be provided when boarding and exiting the bus. Leonard ISD will comply with all health and safety recommendations established by the Governor, the health department, and the Texas Education Agency. School buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Safety and health measures may be adjusted based on current guidelines and conditions.

8. How will social distancing be promoted in cafeterias, gyms, restrooms, and other commons areas?

Signage reminding students and staff about social distancing, handwashing, and infection prevention will be posted throughout the school.

Elementary classrooms will be assigned specific bathrooms, breakfast, lunch, and gym access times to reduce the number of students in any given area as much as possible.

Secondary students will be encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines.

9. What precautions will be in place for athletics, band, and other extracurricular activities?

Safety guidelines are being developed for conducting all on-campus workouts, rehearsals, and practices. The district will continue to follow all guidelines provided by UIL, TEA, and the state health officials. These safety guidelines can be found at uiltexas.org.

10. My high school junior or senior is enrolled in dual credit classes for Fall 2020. What should I know as a parent/student?

Students taking Dual Credit courses from Grayson College will be required to wear a face covering while in class. As of now, these courses will be in-person with an instructor present from Grayson College at LHS. There is a chance that these courses could be transitioned to online if Grayson deems necessary. Students must follow Grayson College health requirements to enroll in dual credit classes.

11. Will elementary and intermediate students have recess or the ability to play and socialize with other students?

Yes. Elementary and intermediate campuses will have recess, but will limit the number of students at recess at one time to further reduce student interactions. Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer before and after recess. Playground equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.

12. Will students in grades 7-12 be able to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs and organization meetings?

Yes, students who select Remote Learning or In-Person Learning may participate in extracurricular activities, clubs and/or organizations when available. Attendance and grading standards must be adhered to just like students attending school for in-person learning. Some club meetings may be held virtually, as applicable. Students must have their own transportation to and from campus.

13. What happens if a student or a teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire classroom have to quarantine? What if multiple classrooms and students/staff are impacted? Will students be able to participate in Remote learning during the quarantine?

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be sent home to recover. When notification of a possible exposure occurs, in coordination with local health authorities, the campus/district will investigate who may have had close contact with the student/staff. Based on the results, a determination will be made as to whether an entire classroom or multiple classrooms are required to quarantine. It will also be determined if students/staff were in "close contact" based on the definition provided in this document and whether or not a face covering was worn during this time, etc (based on TEA guidelines). In the event students are required to temporarily quarantine, the education of these students will continue through Remote Learning for the duration of the quarantine period.

14. How will you determine if someone has had “close contact”?

Leonard ISD will have a school health professional who will work with campus administration to determine this. All of our classrooms will have stable seating. In other words once seats are chosen (by teachers at elementary and intermediate or by kids or teachers at secondary), a seating chart will be made from that. In the same way, once there is stable seating at lunch, kids for the most part sit at the same table every day and we will know who the table groupings are. We will work with coaches and directors as well for students involved in extracurricular settings.

For some cases, it will be very clear that quarantine is needed. For other situations, it will be letting the parents know what kind of proximity was had - while maintaining the confidentiality of the student or staff. We also want to be clear that this is challenging work by even professional contact tracers. However, we feel like we are putting systems in place to assist in this work.

15. What happens if my child’s campus is temporarily closed during the school year?

During the period of the school closure, students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities that are primarily delivered through an online learning management system. Live or recorded teacher-led instruction will be scheduled during the day to expand students’ opportunities to engage with content and interact with teachers and classmates. Daily student participation in the learning activities will be required. Instructional time will also be dedicated for independent learning activities. A structured schedule will be provided to students indicating required times for participation prior to school starting.

16. Will computer devices or internet hotspots be made available to students who need them?

Yes. Students in need of a device may check one out at the campus office (some devices are back-ordered, so this may delay this process until the order is received). Internet hotspots are available upon request on a limited basis.

17. How will teachers address any potential learning needs from the school closure last spring?

To support all students, the district curriculum will highlight academic standards that teachers will consider as they plan to address the potential learning impacts resulting from the school closure. Teachers will use formative assessments and supplemental resources to personalize student learning to address areas of need.

18. How will student progress be reported?

Overall progress on learning outcomes will be communicated in a “traditional” format using numeric grades. Assignments and grades will be entered into our grading system. The expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and Remote Learning will be the same.

19. Will STAAR/EOC be administered in 2020-2021?

Yes. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has indicated that STAAR testing will still occur during the 2020-2021 school year, in compliance with state and federal legislation.

20. Can students change their commitment from In-Person Learning to Remote Learning after the start of the school year?

Due to the scheduling complexities inherent in these two options, parents will be asked to make a commitment for at least one full six-weeks grading period. Special circumstances that affect a family will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the campus principal. Please note that if a student switches between In-Person Learning and Remote Learning, then that student may not have the same course schedule.

21. How do parents commit to an instructional model of choice for their child?

For current students, parents will complete the commitment form from the link that was emailed to them on July 31 from School Messenger and also posted on the Leonard ISD website with a deadline of **August 7 at**

noon. Parents will have from July 31 - August 7 to make a decision for the first six weeks of school. Upon enrollment, new students will be provided the opportunity to select their instructional model. Parents have until August 7th to contact the campus principal if they choose to adjust their selection.

22. How will Remote Learning be different from the instruction provided during the school closure last spring?

Students who select Remote Learning will be required to attend either virtually or online and participate in class activities daily. In the spring of last year, students' assignments were provided at a reduced amount of instructional minutes as compared to a traditional school day. Remote Learning this year will be a course load of instruction and assignments that is comparable to what students who are attending school in-person will be required to complete. In addition, grading procedures will be the same as In-Person Learning.

23. Will there be attendance requirements for Remote Learning students?

Yes, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will require daily attendance and participation in Remote Learning. Students will be required to participate in online classes daily and traditional attendance rules will be enforced. A student will be considered absent if the student does not engage in the designated live or recorded instruction and/or independent learning activities each day.

24. Will students in Remote Learning have access to instructional materials, such as guided reading books or other classroom resources?

Students will be provided with some instructional materials that will vary based on the grade level and coursework of the student. Some resources may be provided digitally. The design of classroom instruction will account for student's access to specific instructional materials in the home.

25. Will students participating in Remote learning need to purchase school supplies for the new year?

Yes. Families will need to purchase typical school supplies. Students who are participating in Remote Learning will need to purchase the necessary listed supplies from the grade level supply list in order to complete their assignments.

26. Will courses taken in Remote Learning be included in GPA calculations and class rank for high school students?

Courses taken by students participating in Remote Learning will be included in calculating GPA and class rank in accordance with EIC (Local) Policy.

27. Will all courses be offered in Remote Learning for students in Grades 7- 8?

All courses will be offered virtually through Remote Learning with the exception of a minimal number of electives that require in-person (band, athletics, PE, etc.).

28. Will all courses be offered in Remote Learning for students in Grades 9-12?

No. Based on the course requirements, there are some specialized courses that may not be available in Remote Learning. For these courses, the student will have the option to attend the class on-campus or choose to have their schedule changed in order to remain in a fully remote environment. In addition, there are some specialized courses that are offered in Remote Learning, but may require in-person laboratory learning experiences based on specific course learning outcomes regarding equipment, software, and technology.

Transportation for Remote Learners attending on-campus courses will not be provided, except as documented through IEP paperwork in order for students to have access to their Special Education services.

29. Can students in grades 7-12 who select Remote Learning still participate in UIL/Extracurricular competitions, including athletics, fine arts, etc?

Yes, see question #12 above. Students who select Remote Learning may participate in UIL events/courses if they meet all UIL requirements, are enrolled in the applicable course section, and are able to attend on-campus practices and competitions. Students must have their own transportation to and from the campus.

30. Are immunizations required for students enrolled in Remote Learning?

Yes, at this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements for students. All students must have immunizations updated regardless of in-person or remote learning.

31. Will resources be available for parents to support and monitor their child's Remote Learning?

Yes, resources will be available for parents to learn how to support students in navigating learning through these digital tools. These resources will be available in August.

32. Will students identified as English Learners, Dyslexic and/or Gifted and Talented receive services during Remote Learning?

Yes. More information will be available at a later date.

33. Will students receiving services from Special Education or 504 be eligible for Remote Learning?

Yes, all students in LISD will have the opportunity to choose In-Person Learning or Remote Learning.

34. Will an ARD/504 meeting be required if Remote Learning is chosen?

ARD and 504 meetings will be scheduled on a case by case basis. For students served in special education, the schedule of instructional and related services should be accurately documented in the ARD/IEP to reflect the supports and services the student requires for a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). A parent/guardian may request an ARD or 504 meeting at any time.

35. I have chosen Remote Learning for my student, but he/she requires an evaluation for 504 or special education this school year. Will the evaluation also take place via virtual methods?

If your student requires an initial or re-evaluation, the parent/guardian will be contacted to discuss the evaluation and determine components that can be completed virtually versus those components that require face-to-face interaction. Appointments with evaluation staff will be scheduled at the campus to complete face-to-face components.

