George West Independent School District

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George West Independent School District
Reopening GWISD Schools 2020-2021
Frequently Asked Questions

Instruction and Attendance

1. How will parents notify schools of their selection of method of instruction (on-campus or remote instruction).

Parents will receive an email from the District which will contain a survey. Parents will respond to the survey, which includes their selection. The survey results will be returned to the campus.

2. Can students switch from on-campus to remote instruction at any time?

Parents are asked to commit to a method of instruction for a complete six week grading period or longer. The best student learning experience will be one that is consistent and not one that is shifting from one method to another. GWISD understands that there may be concerns with on-campus instruction during uncertain time.

3. Can parents change their mind about method of instruction in the middle of a grading period?

No. Parents will not be able to switch method of instruction until the end of the six-week grading period.

4. Do students that choose remote instruction have to log in every day?

Yes. Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2020-2021 school year.

5. Can students log in to remote instruction throughout the day?

Schools will publish a learning schedule which will be aligned with the GWISD Learning Plan submitted for approval by the Texas Education Agency for all students and classes. Attendance will be measured for students based on their engagement as required by teachers, progress made on assignments, and time spent on instructional activities. Since teachers will be providing on-campus, face to face instruction with students, remote learners may be given instructions to log in and engage live AND independent activities on other learning programs.

6. How will my child seek help from the teacher if we choose remote instruction?

As teachers did in the Spring, students will be able to contact teachers by email, Google, or other electronic means for assistance with their assignments. Teachers may designate a certain time and method where students can reach out for assistance.
7. What is remote asynchronous instruction?

Remote Asynchronous 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 game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, §28.002.

8. What is remote synchronous instruction?

Remote Synchronous Instruction – Two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. In this method, the required amount of instructional time is scheduled each day, and funding is generated when attendance is recorded daily at a locally selected snapshot time. Synchronous instruction is provided through a computer or other electronic device or over the phone. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, §28.002.

9. Can a student hold a job during school hours and still receive credit for courses?

Compulsory attendance policies still apply for all students. Depending on a student’s course schedule load, students will be held accountable for virtual and on campus attendance and engagement in all courses. Teachers will be measuring time logged in, student engagement in coursework, and progress made on all assignments as they determine if students are present or absent during the course.

10. Will there be a hold harmless grading policy if students are learning remotely?

No. Grading guidelines as adopted by the GWISD Board of Trustees and all campuses will be followed as they were before COVID 19.

Prevention and Mitigation

What steps will GWISD take to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and students when schools open for the 2020-2021 school year?

- COVID Symptom Screening will be conducted for students and staff.
- Temperature checks will be conducted for students before boarding buses or entering buildings.
- Students or parents failing a COVID screening will not be allowed to enter a district building or bus.
- Parents will be contacted if students’ temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Parents shall inform school when students or family members have symptoms.
• Staff Screening (Including self- screening and reporting and monitoring by administrator) will be conducted.
• Staff shall inform district when students or family members have symptoms.
• Appropriate protocols will be followed when symptoms are reported. [GWISD Covid-Exposure-Process-Map (1).pdf]
• Visitors to campuses will be limited to essential needs. Lunch visitors will not be permitted.
• All visitors will be screened for COVID symptoms and checked for temperature.
• Masks or face shields will be required for all staff. Students 10 years or older will be required to wear masks or face shields.

[Live Oak County Order Relating to COVID-19_0001.pdf]
• Hand sanitizer will be available at school entry and classrooms and intermittent handwashing will be practiced.
• Frequent Sanitizing and Cleaning by custodial staff


11. What will the district do if a parent reports that their child is a lab confirmed case of COVID 19?

GWISD will follow a protocol that is consistent with CDC guidelines as shown in the link below. [GWISD Covid-Exposure-Process-Map.pdf]

12. What will the district do if an employee tests positive for COVID 19?

See response for question 11 above.

13. Will the district close down if a lab-confirmed case of COVID 19 has been in the schools?

The district has the option to close a section, building, or the district depending on the situation; however, if an individual who has been in a school, is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, GWISD will notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including ADA and FERPA. Schools will 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 in any on campus activities.
14. Will the district allow visitors to the campus for lunch or any other purpose?

Visitors will not be allowed in the school for lunch or any other purpose unless there are circumstances that require them to be allowed on campus. These visits should be arranged with the campus principal before the visit. Parents will not be able to join their students for lunch, especially since students will be eating breakfast and lunch at their desks.

15. Will students be able to remove their masks when they are seated at their desks?

There will be occasions where students may briefly remove their masks, depending on the classroom setting and situation. GWISD is complying with mask orders issued by state and local authorities. The more we wear our masks, the more we control the spread of COVID-19.

**Student and Teacher Groupings**

16. How will GWISD schools ensure distancing in the classroom?

Student desks will be distanced three to six feet apart where possible. Steps have been taken to remove non-essential furniture from classrooms to add space. Desks will face in one direction and small groups of students will not be available. Large areas such as gyms, libraries labs, and outdoor spaces may be used as classroom learning spaces where necessary.

17. Will students be able to move about freely on campus?

Student movement in large groups will be kept at a minimum on all campuses. Student groups moving to spaces such as library, lab, cafeteria and recess will be limited. Staff supervision will ensure student distancing before and after school.

18. How will dismissal be handled after school?

Specific dismissal plans will be announced by schools before August 13th. Large student groups will not be allowed at dismissal. Teachers and principals will ensure that a staggered format is used to enable parents to pick students up. Bus students will be dismissed in the same manner.

19. Will students be able to eat in the cafeteria?

Students will not be able to eat lunch in large groups in the cafeteria. Students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms, until further notice.

20. Will students be able to participate in Physical Education classes?

Yes. When feasible and appropriate and where weather permits, it is preferable for students to gather outside, rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors. Students will practice six feet distancing as supervised by Physical Education teachers. **Public water fountains at our schools have been disabled and will not be available.**
21. Will pep rallies and award assemblies be conducted on campuses?

No. Large group gatherings will not be conducted until further notice. Other options for student recognition will be considered.

22. Can students who choose remote learning participate in extracurricular activities?

Students who choose remote learning may participate in extracurricular activities; however, schools may impose additional requirements for participation.

23. Will athletic events be held during the 2020-2021 school year?

GWISD will comply with UIL policies and decisions. When those details become available, they will be communicated to all stakeholders.

Transportation

24. Will all the regular bus routes in GWISD be available for the 2020-2021 school year?

Most of the bus routes that were available in 2019-2020 will be available in 2020-2021; however, some routes near the city limits of George West may be changed. Parents will be notified of these changes before August 13, 2020. **IT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THAT PARENTS PROVIDE THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE MORE SPACING ON BUSES. MINIMIZING STUDENT DIRECT CONTACT WILL MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF COVID 19.**

25. What happens if the bus driver discovers that a student has a temperature of 100.4 or higher?

The bus driver will not allow the student to board the bus. Parents will be notified and arrangements made so that the student returns home safely.

26. How will buses be sanitized?

Buses will be sanitized after each route with approved sanitizing solution. Seats, doors, and frequently touched areas will be wiped clean with solution. Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses. Masks will also be worn on buses. Bus windows may be open to allow outside air to circulate as much as possible.