

Denver City ISD

2020-2021 District Guide to Reopening
Schools
(Revised 3.12.21)

TEACHER/STAFF GUIDE



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PLEASE NOTE: The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

REOPENING DCISD 2020-2021

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of your student(s) on August 17 and have been making preparations to ensure the health and safety of your student(s). Despite extensive challenges, DCISD will continue to provide excellent instruction to our students in our classrooms face to face and virtually.

As our community navigates the uncertainty of COVID-19, we understand our Denver City ISD families, staff, and community members have questions and concerns about the upcoming school year. While we may not have all the answers – this is a first for all of us – our goal is to provide our parents with as much information as possible so they can make the best decisions for their families when school starts on **August 17**.

How is Denver City ISD preparing to reopen?

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, current science suggests there are many steps we can take to significantly reduce the risk to students, teachers, staff, and families. Denver City is closely monitoring guidance from the State of Texas, TEA, CDC, UIL, pediatricians, and other state and local officials on how to reopen safely. This guidance document contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread, including some that are requirements for all schools and others that are recommendations:

1. PROVIDE NOTICE: Requirements for parental and public notices
2. PREVENT: Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
3. RESPOND: Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
4. MITIGATE: Recommended and required practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

We are currently in the process of making changes to safety and health protocols, enhanced cleaning procedures, and operational and instructional adjustments. The following document is a comprehensive plan with steps Denver City ISD will take to safely reopen our campuses with minimal disruptions to our students' regular school experience.

In order to meet the needs of our students, this fall Denver City ISD is planning for two different models of instruction. Plans will be flexible to accommodate potential changes with the COVID-19 situation as these guidelines may need to be modified. It is our priority to keep families informed and provide you with the most up-to-date information.

Denver City ISD will be providing parents the opportunity to choose one of two instructional models. Although we are offering both Face-to-Face Instruction and Virtual Instruction, **DCISD recommends Face-to-Face learning as the best overall method for student success.**

What instructional options will Denver City provide?

Denver City ISD is committed to providing an excellent learning environment for all students. Teachers excel in meeting the needs of every student to help them meet their full potential. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Denver City ISD will offer these instructional options for the 2020-21 school year:

- Face-to-Face Learning
- Virtual Learning

What can you expect next?

Denver City ISD remains committed to our beliefs, which always guide our decision-making process. Updates will be posted to our District social media accounts at <https://www.dcisd.org/Denver>.

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DCISD HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN *as of March 12, 2021*

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff and their families significantly. This plan is in effect immediately unless there are mandatory shutdowns and guidance changes from state and/or local agencies. Changes to the public health situation may also necessitate changes to these guidelines.

These guidelines address:

- On campus instruction
- Administrative activities by teachers, staff, or students that occur on school campuses
- Non - UIL extracurricular sports and activities (UIL activities follow the guidance found on the UIL website.)
- Any other activities that teachers, staff or students must complete that cannot be accomplished virtually
- Visits by parents and the general public

ATTENDANCE AND ENROLLMENT:

- Per Texas Code (TEC), 25.092, student 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 2020-21 school year.
- Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of temporary virtual instruction with permission granted by the building principal.

INDIVIDUALS CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED WITH COVID-19

Stay-at-Home Period for Close Contacts of Individuals Who Tested Positive

For individuals who are close contacts to individuals who tested positive, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus.

As of December 2, 2020, the CDC amended their guidance to allow two shorter options for the stay at home period for Close Contact asymptomatic individuals. Based on current CDC guidance, the stay-at-home period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms:

- On Day 10 after close contact exposure without testing,
- On Day 7 after close contact exposure and after receiving a negative test result.

Individuals returning to school/work from these shorter stay-at-home windows will monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions (e.g., more consistent mask usage) for the duration of the 14 day incubation period. The individual shall also be monitored by a DCISD Health Professional for the duration of the 14 day incubation period.

See the “***DCISD Addendum for Denver City ISD Stay-At-Home Period for Close Contacts of Individuals who Tested Positive***” at the end of the document.

See the definition of Close Contact at the bottom of the document.

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DCISD TEACHERS AND STAFF:

- Teachers and staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Self-screening includes taking their own temperature, as are defined at the end of the document.
- Teachers and staff must report to their direct supervisor the following and shall remain off campus until the 14-day stay-at-home period has passed if any of the following are reported until re-entry conditions are met:
 - If having symptoms of COVID-19
 - If testing positive with test-confirmed COVID-19
- If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, DCISD appointed staff will report to the local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- DCISD will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
- For individuals who are close contacts to individuals who tested positive and have no symptoms, please see the above DCISD Stay-At-Home Period for Close Contact and the DCISD Addendum for Stay-At-Home Period.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF DCISD STUDENTS:

- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child meets any of the following criteria and shall remain off campus for 14-day incubation period while receiving remote instruction temporarily until re-entry conditions are met:
 - If testing positive with test-confirmed COVID-19
 - If having symptoms of COVID-19
- Parents may opt to have their students receive temporary remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19. Parents may request Asynchronous, virtual instruction on-line at the end of the 9-week grading period.
- DCISD appointed personnel will conduct a screening via phone or other electronic methods and/or in person.
- Adults/parents/visitors seeking entry into the inside of the building will have screening questions asked of them. When practical, screening may be supplemented with a temperature check.
- If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, DCISD appointed staff will report to the local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- DCISD will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.

CAMPUS VISITORS

Who is considered a campus visitor? Any person who is not assigned as an employee of the building. Parents and other adults can visit schools; however, TEA is requesting that schools limit visits to those deemed essential.

- All visitors will comply with the following procedures:
 - Enter through a secure entrance (main offices that have a vestibule)
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- Use hand sanitizer
- Comply with all applicable District policies and procedures
- Provide identification to staff member
- Campus staff will sanitize visitor check-in area after each visitor by wiping down countertops.
- Administrators will approve all campus visitors and designate visitor areas.
- At this time, visitors are not allowed to eat with students on campus because of limited space.

PARENT MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Both experience and research tell us that a child's education is most successful when there is effective communication and a strong partnership between home and school. We will create options for parents to participate virtually when they do not feel comfortable entering the building.

Parent conferences may occur in designated areas that are not occupied or where social distancing is practiced. Parent conferences (ARDS, 504 etc.) may be done virtually.

RE-ENTRY GUIDELINES:

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 DCISD screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who is symptomatic and is 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) has 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 that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten days have passed since a positive test.
- 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, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.
- 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.
- In the case of an individual who has been identified as having been in close contact and is asymptomatic: See **Addendum for DCISD Stay-At-Home Period**.

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IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE COVID-19 CASES ON CAMPUS:

- Schools must immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Schools should clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school as soon as feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

****COVID-19 SYMPTOMS LIST/SCREENING QUESTIONS:**

When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, school systems must only require the individual to provide a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation.

Have they recently begun experiencing 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
- Shortness of breath;
- Fatigue;
- Headache;
- Chills;
- Sore throat;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering;
- Significant muscle pain or ache;
- Diarrhea; or
- Nausea or vomiting

****COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITION:**

This document refers to “close-contact” with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- being within 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., 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 test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming test.

INCREASED SANITATION EFFORTS

- Daily cleaning procedures of highly touched surfaces.
 - Staff will provide opportunities for students to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate. This includes cleaning surfaces between different class groups.

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- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This includes objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies and high touch devices such as shared keyboards/tablets.
- Cleaning products will be safely stored.

CUSTODIAL SERVICES CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Prior to the first day of school, all Denver City ISD custodial staff will complete additional and enhanced training on CDC-based cleaning procedures. Below is a list of surfaces and areas of the building that will be sanitized daily or between use as much as possible by custodians:

- Building Entrances, Elevators, Stairways, Glass Doors/Windows/Mirrors, Classrooms, Showers, Corridors/Hallways, Administrative Suites, Work Rooms/Break Rooms, Libraries, Computer Labs

Frequently touched surfaces and areas listed below will be sanitized and disinfected daily or between use as much as possible:

- Tables, Desk, Doorknobs, Light Switches, Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Weight Rooms, Countertops, Handles, Phones, Keyboards, Toilets, Faucets, Sinks, Touch Screens

HAND SANITIZING

- Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water at each entrance/classroom.
 - Students, teachers, staff and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
 - Campuses will teach good handwashing techniques.
 - Students, teachers, staff and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and If not available, cover coughs with 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.
 - Printed resources will be displayed to promote protective measures and serve as helpful reminders of best practices.

MASKS/SHIELDS:

Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks.

Effective March 10, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-34 lifting the mask mandate in Texas and increasing compacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100%. Some exceptions apply. See full Executive Order GA-34 at <https://open.texas.gov>.

In response to the Governor's Executive Order, the DCISD Board has taken a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of our students, staff and community.

To achieve the least restrictive means of combatting COVID-19, the board adopted resolution regarding Health and Hygiene Practices declares the following:

- DCISD will continue the established cleaning protocols aimed at protecting the health and safety of district stakeholders,
- Face coverings are encouraged, but not required whenever it is not feasible to maintain social distancing,
- The wearing of a face covering is a personal choice.

For the purpose of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings, or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose and mouth.

- Families will be responsible to provide face masks for their students if choosing to wear one.

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STUDENT-TEACHER GROUPING:

Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, students will be encouraged to practice social distancing.

- In classroom spaces that allow it, students/desks will be spaced 6 feet apart while indoors if possible.
- In non-classroom spaces, when feasible and appropriate, students will gather outside for activities such as PE if weather permits.
- Campuses are organizing staggered entry/exit/class transition procedures to reduce large group interactions.
- Campuses are working to reduce close contact at lunch through spacing of 6 feet apart and/or eating meals in classrooms.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL CLASSROOMS/OFFICES CONFIGURATIONS

- Teachers will configure desks in a manner that is conducive for the size and furniture in the classroom space. Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as possible.
- When social distancing is not possible, teachers will encourage more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- Teachers will provide a seating chart for students to ensure the ability to trace potential exposure.
- Students will not be allowed to share school supplies.
- Classroom manipulatives should be sanitized after each use when feasible.
- 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 from other classroom groups.
- The recommended procedures will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education services locations when possible and appropriate. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

COMMON AREAS

- Common areas include spaces that are used for meetings and collaboration. This includes computer labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms and other meeting rooms.
- Library books will be checked out. Upon return, books will be cleaned and held for three days before being re-shelved.
- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas that align with TEA and CDC guidelines.

- Students will not be allowed to use hallway water fountains.

Common areas will be sanitized and disinfected daily or between use as much as possible.

Areas that are excluded due to the nature of the activity where social distancing and/or face coverings are not feasible may include cafeterias, gymnasiums, playgrounds, etc.

RESTROOMS

- Teachers will instruct students on proper hand washing techniques and these must be consistently reinforced.
- **E** The scheduling of whole class restroom breaks is recommended to eliminate co-mingling of students across various classes and to ensure teacher monitoring of social distancing guidelines.
- A system will be implemented to identify the number of occupants utilizing each restroom to mitigate the chance of exceeding maximum occupants per social distancing.
- After a restroom break, students will be required to use hand sanitizer before re-entering the classroom.

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SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION:

In order to reduce possible virus exposure on buses, families are encouraged to drop their own student(s) off at school.

- Families are required to self-screen prior to placing their students on the bus.
- Bus Drivers will also screen students as they enter the bus.
- Students and staff will use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- When possible, windows will be open to allow air circulation.
- No food or drinks of any kind will be permitted.
- Family members will be seated together regardless of grade level or age.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs and door handles.

TRAINING:

Training will be provided by the District for staff and students on strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These include cover your cough, wash your hands, face coverings, and social distancing. Teachers will also be trained to limit sharing of supplies, equipment, etc. and to sanitize between uses by different groups.

On the first day of school, teachers will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted by the District.

Signage that promotes protective measures on each campus will serve as helpful reminders to students and staff.

MEALS:

For in-person meals, the following guidance will apply:

- Campus staff will monitor in the cafeteria and hallways to ensure social distancing when feasible.
- Depending on the number of students in the school, students may have meals in both the cafeteria and in classrooms.
- Signage and staff will reinforce physical distance and traffic patterns in the cafeteria.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at entrances of the cafeteria.

Grab and Go meals will be an option for students who select the Virtual Instruction Model.

- Grab and Go Lunch Times:
 - Grades PK to 12th : 11:50 – 12:20 @ Mustang Cafeteria
- Virtual Student Meal Cards are required to pick up lunch and will be mailed to households from the DCISD Child Nutrition Office
- Unlike the spring Emergency Closure, meal prices are based on qualification through the Free and
- Reduced Meal Application just as if enrolled as a Face to Face student.

Visitors at Lunch:

- At this time, visitors are not allowed to eat with students on campus because of limited space.
- Parents are allowed to check out students for lunch.
- Staff should maintain social distancing during lunch and conference periods.

Parents Dropping Off Lunches:

- No lunches will be delivered during the school day. A child may bring a lunch to school with them upon arrival.

DCISD Child Nutrition Office is located at the DCISD Administration Office. For more information regarding our food service, please contact Jennifer Jordon at (806) 592-5985.

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Notably, the details on this document are subject to change as new information is received or as health conditions merit.

ARRIVAL, PASSING PERIOD, DISMISSAL

ARRIVAL

- Any students dropped off before the building is open will not be allowed inside the building. Any exceptions would need to be specifically arranged with campus administration.
- Parents/guardians will not be allowed to walk their student(s) into the building.
- Staff including teachers, aides, and campus administration will be on duty located at each campus entrance and in student holding areas. Staff members at the entrance will monitor the traffic flow into the campus.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate in the hallway, restroom, bus lanes, etc.
- Practice social distancing when feasible.

PASSING PERIOD

- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus hallways will be encouraged.
- **E** For grade levels that implement departmentalization of subject areas, teachers will move to students for transitions in instruction and students will remain in their homeroom class.
- Students should stay to the right in the hallway.
- Instructional staff including teachers, aides, and campus administration will monitor students in the hallways during passing periods, and remind students of expectations and traffic flow.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate in the hallway, restroom, etc.

DISMISSAL

- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus hallways will be encouraged.
- Students will report to their dismissal holding areas outside the building unless there is inclement weather.
- Parents will drive to the student's holding area. Parents are encouraged to stay in the car while the student is escorted by a staff member. Parents will not be allowed into the building after school hours.
- Instructional staff including teachers, aides, and campus administration will be on duty to monitor students in the pick-up line.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate.

Campuses will communicate any changes to arrival, passing periods, and/or dismissal procedures as the year progresses.

RECESS

- Campuses may consider limiting the number of students per recess group. Staggered schedules may be utilized when needed.
- Students and staff will be required to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer before and after recess.

SPECIALS

- PE classes will be conducted outdoors whenever possible. Appropriate social distancing measures will be followed, as feasible.
- Music, PE, and other equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use.
- Having specials in the grade- classrooms or outdoors is recommended.

STUDENTACTIVITIES

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UIL PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Denver City ISD will follow guidance from the University Interscholastic League (UIL), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the State of Texas on UIL and extracurricular activities for our students and for events hosted at our facilities. Throughout workouts and practices, equipment will be sanitized, and we will continue to follow CDC guidelines for cleaning procedures.

UPCOMING ATHLETIC SEASONS

At this time, UIL plans to begin fall competition seasons as scheduled on the UIL calendar. UIL will continue to work with the state officials and monitor CDC and other federal guidance to determine any further modifications to this guidance.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Currently, Denver City ISD is offering participation in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities to students who select Face-to-Face Learning only. We have been working diligently over the past few months to create a premier learning experience for Virtual Learners. We have made progress, but we still have much to learn. Therefore, we are focusing our efforts on ensuring a rigorous academic learning experience for Virtual Learners.

- In order to participate in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities (including all UIL-sponsored sports and activities), the student must be enrolled in Face-to-Face Learning.
- Students enrolled in Virtual Learning will not be allowed to participate in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities (including all UIL-sponsored sports and activities) while the student is enrolled in Virtual Learning.
- If a student returns to Face-to-Face Learning, the student may be eligible to participate in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities, depending on the school-sponsored or extracurricular activity's normal guidelines.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Denver City ISD will offer these instructional options for the 2020-21 school year.

FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION

Students attend school through the traditional model five days a week. Students receive face-to-face instruction from their teachers, collaborate with peers, and follow the typical daily schedule.

- Ⓢ Denver City ISD will automatically schedule your student into the course requests they made earlier in the year.

SHORT-TERM/TEMPORARY ONLINE PARTICIPATION

In the event of a short-term closure or stay at home situation (example: 14-day stay-at-home period), individual students can transition to this temporary virtual learning model if needed. This is different from enrolling your student in Virtual Learning. The length of the online participation will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The students will continue to receive instruction from their classroom teacher through their teacher's learning management system. Instruction will continue with the district adopted curriculum and the use of Google Classroom for grades 2-12 and SeeSaw for grades PK-1. Students will be able to check out a device if needed.

Notably, elementary parents will need to support their younger learners as a learning coach. There will be daily progress monitoring and attendance will be based on work submission. The grading policy in place on the campus will continue in an online environment and will not move to other systems such as pass/fail.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

The Virtual Learning model is different from the remote learning in the spring. We made adjustments based on the feedback received from parents, students, and teachers. The District has identified Edgenuity for grades 6-12 and Texas Home Learning 3.0 for grades PK-5 as instructional tools to support a consistent learning experience for all students across the District. Virtual Learning courses

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will be taught by certified DCISD teachers.

Key aspects of Virtual Learning model include:

- Students will be expected to follow the full instructional day plan according to the provided schedule.
- Content learning and activities will be planned by the virtual classroom teacher to make sure each student receives their full instructional minutes.
- The Virtual Learning model will have a separate instructional design but will use the same Year at a Glance (YAG) as Face-to-Face learning.
- The Virtual Learning platform assignments will look different, but they will cover the same TEKS.
- Online course offerings may be limited as compared to the on-site offerings.
- All extra-curricular activities including UIL competitions, Pre-AP/AP and vocational electives courses are examples of, but not limited to some of the courses that may not be available.
- TEKS Resource YAG and Unit Assessments will be utilized. Data will be uploaded into Eduphoria for monitoring of student progress and skills as on-campus instruction.
- Learning opportunities will be personalized to meet individual needs of students that receive specialized services.

Participation – To participate in DCISD Virtual Learning, parents/guardians must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the student will complete the nine-week grading period virtually. Students will waive participation in extracurricular activities, honors courses, vocational/technical, and dual-credit electives. In addition, some elective courses will not be available in the Virtual Learning model.

Technology Access – DCISD strongly encourages parents to provide devices for their students enrolled in Virtual Learning. Parents unable to provide a device will be issued a district owned device.

Testing—The District is investigating ways to secure virtual testing environments and uphold academic integrity. State mandated STAAR tests will be in effect. On-site administration will be required for standardized and benchmark type assessments. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Specific Related Services—Students who are guaranteed related services through Special Education, English as a Second Language, Bilingual Education, 504, etc. and choose Virtual Learning model will be provided the opportunity to convene a meeting to revise their supports and services to ensure we meet the needs of our students virtually. Notably, for students who are IEP-entitled, progress will be carefully monitored and ARD/IEP Committees will convene and make appropriate recommendations to meet individual student needs to ensure continued growth in the general education curriculum and on IEP goals and objectives.

Gifted and Talented Services

- Ⓔ Gifted and Talented services will be provided through a virtual GT teacher at the elementary level. Specific scheduling information will be provided to each student who qualifies for GT services. At the secondary level, students will access GT services through their GT core virtual courses.

Ⓔ Elementary Instruction (Grades Pre-K—5)

Elementary parents will need to support their younger learners as a learning coach. Students will engage in Texas Home Learning 3.0 and receive instruction including, but not limited to:

- Authentic student work/assignments with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard
- Hands-on activities which may need an extra pair of hands
- Portfolio tasks in SeeSaw, Google Classroom and submitting assignments
- Assessments
- Video lessons
- Group/partner projects

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- Virtual conferences
- Student-to-teacher communication through See Saw/Google Classroom messaging features (parent guidance required in grade Pre-K—1)

Enrichment and Intervention—Teachers will communicate with students and parents the plan for enrichment and intervention based on individual student data and needs.

Grading—All Virtual Learning courses will follow the DCISD District Grading Guidelines.

S Secondary Instruction (Grades 6—12)

All students will receive computer-based instruction through Edgenuity. Students will engage in Edgenuity and receive instruction including, but not limited to:

- Authentic student work/assignments with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard
- Hands-on activities which may need an extra pair of at hands
- Submitting assignments
- Assessments
- Video lessons
- Virtual conferences
- Student to teacher communication through Google Classroom

Enrichment and Intervention—Teachers will communicate with students and parents the plan for enrichment and intervention based on individual student data and needs.

- S** DCISD Virtual Learning courses that earn high school credit will count in GPA calculation and class rank.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance will be taken and students must be in attendance 90% in order to receive credit and/or promotion to the next grade level. Students will be required to meet the minimum attendance for class credit rule (TEC, §25.092). Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as face-to-face attendance in satisfying this requirement.

- Students will interact with teachers daily via computer or phone.
- Digital platforms to support communication and accountability include Google Classroom and SeeSaw.
- Daily attendance will also be documented through the completion of daily assignments. Students identified as not engaged in the daily assignments/communication will be counted absent per TEA guidance.
- Truancy laws will apply to students who fail to attend school, but remote attendance satisfies attendance requirements.
- TEA requires that schools track the instructional method in which the student is participating each school day.

FACE-TO-FACE LEARNERS

- There are no changes to the way face-to-face days present and days absent will be reported.

SHORT-TERM/TEMPORARY ONLINE PARTICIPANTS

- The teacher will identify the student as Remote Asynchronous (RA) Present. In order to be counted present the student does not have to be present at a designated official attendance time.
- In order for a student to be counted “Present,” the student must engage in at least one of the following ways each day.
 - Student has shown daily progress in the assigned work as evidenced in Google Classroom.

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- Student has shown daily progress via teacher-student interactions
- Student has completed/turned-in assignment(s) to the teacher the following day.

VIRTUAL LEARNING PARTICIPANTS

- The teacher will identify the student as Remote Asynchronous (RA) Present. In order to be counted present the student does not have to be present at a designated official attendance time.
- In order for a student to be counted “Present,” the student must engage in at least one of the following ways each day.
 - Student has shown daily progress in Edgenuity or Texas Home Learning 3.0
 - Student has shown daily progress via teacher-student interactions
 - Student has completed/turned-in assignment(s) to the teacher

VIRTUAL LEARNING PARTICIPANTS for ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Daily academic progress will be determined for all students in alignment with DCISD grading on a 4.0 scale and face-to-face instructional model. Weekly communication regarding grades will be communicated with the student. Determination of student engagement is as follows:

- Progress as determined by Learning Management Systems (Istation, iReady, Edgenuity, THL 3.0, Imagine Learning, HMH Texas Into Reading, Go Math & AR Renaissance as appropriate.)
- Progress as determined by teacher/student interactions through Google Classroom for grades 2-12 and SeeSaw for grades PK-1.
- Completion/Turning in of Assignments each day.
- Instructional gaps will be identified through benchmark assessments and deficits will be addressed through additional curricular interventions.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS FOR SHORT-TERM ONLINE PARTICIPANTS AND VIRTUAL LEARNERS (I.E. BILINGUAL/ESL, SPECIAL EDUCATION, CTE, ETC.)

- As long as the campus is providing services, the campus will report Days Present in the special program areas. New PEIMS data elements will be created to report (RA) Present.

TECHNOLOGY

- Students and staff will electronically acknowledge the following:
 - Student Agreement for Acceptable Use of the District’s Technology Resources
 - Employee Agreement for Acceptable Use of the District’s Technology Resources
- DCISD will identify student technology needs during the registration process and distribute devices as needed.
- Parents are required to provide internet service for Virtual Learning.

COMMUNICATION

Denver City ISD is committed to keeping our staff, students, parents, and other stakeholders informed on changes made to the 2020-21 school year due to COVID-19.

Important Dates:

- August 3: Virtual Parent Meeting for Dodson Primary & Kelley Elementary
- August 4: Virtual Instruction Parent Meeting for Gravitt JH and Denver City High School
- August 17: First Day of School

Denver City ISD will continue to communicate through the District’s channels, including:

- Website <https://www.dcisd.org/Denver>.
- School Messenger (callouts)
- Skyward (email messages)

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- Social media
- Facebook (District and campus-level)
- Remind messages (campus-level)

If you have any questions about Reopening Denver City ISD, please contact your campus principal.