



Palmer
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmer ISD Back to School Plan Fall 2020

Community health data continues to change in our Palmer ISD community, and we are continuously monitoring this information and adjusting our plans accordingly. We are sharing these preliminary plans with the understanding that as we get closer to August 17, 2020, plans could change based on conditions.

Palmer ISD Back to School Plan Fall 2020

This document is divided in two parts. The first part pertains to remote learning and the guidelines and expectations involved in remote learning. The second part pertains to the health & safety expectations for students and employees.

Part One - Remote Learning

Daily on-campus learning will be available to all parents who would like their students to learn in school each day.

In addition, all parents will have the option to choose remote learning for their children, initially, or at any point as the year progresses. Parents who choose remote instruction for their students will be required to commit to remote instruction for a full grading period (6 weeks) and to commit before the grading period begins..

Palmer Remote Learning

Families may choose the Palmer Remote Learning model for their child if they wish for their child to attend school five days a week at home in a virtual learning environment. Parents/Guardians must complete the **Palmer ISD Remote Learning Affidavit** for each student (available at all campuses and on the website [Palmer ISD / Homepage](#)) and return to the appropriate school(s).

Students must have access to the Internet at home. Students must have a device for their remote learning. All students will be issued a device through our 1:1 program.

Students and parents/guardians will be financially responsible for any lost or damaged devices.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) “strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” We know there are many families in Palmer ISD who are very much looking forward to their children physically returning to school on-campus when school resumes on August 17, 2020. We also know that there are families who have concerns about their children physically returning to school due to preexisting health conditions or other reasons, which is why remote learning that is facilitated by a certified, Palmer ISD

teacher is an important option and will be available. Palmer ISD will support all families in whatever decision is best for their children.

Community health data continues to change in our community, and we are continuously monitoring this information and adjusting our plans accordingly. We are sharing these preliminary plans with the understanding that as we get closer to August 17, 2020, plans could change based on conditions. We are committed to keeping all Palmer ISD families updated and informed of any potential changes to our reopening plans.

What will Palmer Remote look like for students and parents/guardians who elect to stay out of school?

- Palmer Remote is fundamentally different in design from the experience that Palmer ISD students experienced at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Palmer ISD parents/caregivers are expected to be engaged with their children's education but are not expected to serve as their children's primary teacher of the academic curriculum. The parent or guardian will need to be available to keep their child(ren) on task, support immediate questions by the child(ren), and monitor progress daily for success in the program. Attendance and grading policies of traditional school will still apply to students participating in Remote Learning per the Texas Education Agency.
- Parents must complete and sign the **Palmer ISD Remote Learning Affidavit** and submit the completed document to the Campus Administrator(s).
- Students and Parents/Guardians must choose Remote Learning before the grading period begins and can only opt back in to face-to-face learning at the end of a grading period (six weeks and/or semester)
- Students will have digital access through Google Classroom to all their courses
- Google Meet, Zoom and SeeSaw will be used for virtual classroom meetings
- There will **not** be an option to participate in extracurricular activities on campus. If a parent and student elect Remote Learning they will not be allowed to be on campus. This possibly could cause schedule and class changes at the secondary levels.
- Students will engage daily in Remote Learning with Palmer ISD certified teachers facilitating students' learning and coursework.
- Students may have periods of daily, live instruction (synchronous) with certified teachers, as well as periods of self-paced, independent learning (asynchronous).
- A designated daily schedule for remote instruction will be provided to all Palmer remote students that they will be expected to follow. Student attendance will be

taken and student engagement will be monitored for all students every school day.

- Grading guidelines will be the same for Palmer On-Campus and Palmer Remote.
- Secondary students will have access to Career & Technical Education and Dual Credit coursework through Palmer Remote as appropriate. Some courses/programs may require admission.
- Students who require additional support and interventions will receive those via video/phone conferencing based on the expectations and assessment of Palmer ISD certified educators.
- Students who receive services or accommodations through special education, gifted and talented, 504, or multilingual services will continue to receive the support and services. Please see the Special Programs for more detailed information.
- Students will be required to take their required state assessments and progress monitoring tests. These will be given on the student's home campus at a designated time and location..

What will Palmer Remote look like if we have to close classrooms, campuses or the district?

- Palmer Remote is fundamentally different in design from the experience that Palmer ISD students experienced at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Palmer ISD parents/caregivers are expected to be engaged with their children's education but are not expected to serve as their children's primary teacher of the academic curriculum.
- Students will have digital access through Google Classroom to all their courses
- Google Meet and Zoom will be used for virtual classroom meetings
- Students will engage daily in remote learning with Palmer ISD certified teachers facilitating students' learning and coursework.
- Students may have periods of daily, live instruction (synchronous) with certified teachers, as well as periods of self-paced, independent learning (asynchronous).
- A designated daily schedule for remote instruction will be provided to all Palmer Remote students that they will be expected to follow. Student attendance will be taken and student engagement will be monitored for all students every school day.
- Grading guidelines will be the same for Palmer On-Campus and Palmer Remote.
- Students who require additional support and interventions will receive those via video/phone conferencing based on the expectations and assessment of Palmer ISD certified educators.

- Students who receive services or accommodations through special education, gifted and talented, 504, or multilingual services will continue to receive the support and services. Please see the Special Programs for more detailed information.

What will Palmer Remote look like for individual students or groups of students who have to miss short periods of time (typically 2 weeks or less) due to quarantine?

- Palmer Remote is fundamentally different in design from the experience that Palmer ISD students experienced at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Palmer ISD parents/caregivers are expected to be engaged with their children's education but are not expected to serve as their children's primary teacher of the academic curriculum.
- Students will have digital access through Google Classroom to all their courses
- Google Meet and Zoom will be used for virtual classroom meetings
- Students will engage daily in remote learning with Palmer ISD certified teachers facilitating students' learning and coursework.
- Students may have periods of daily, live instruction (synchronous) with certified teachers, as well as periods of self-paced, independent learning (asynchronous).
- A designated daily schedule for remote instruction will be provided to all Palmer Remote students that they will be expected to follow. Student attendance will be taken and student engagement will be monitored for all students every school day.
- Grading guidelines will be the same for Palmer On-Campus and Palmer Remote.
- Students who require additional support and interventions will receive those via video/phone conferencing based on the expectations and assessment of Palmer ISD certified educators.
- Students who receive services or accommodations through special education, gifted and talented, 504, or multilingual services will continue to receive the support and services. Please see the Special Programs for more detailed information.

*Students who miss short periods of time due to personal illness are subject to make-up work guidelines as stated in the Student Handbook.

Expectations

Our remote model for students requires a lot of support from caring adults at home and within the remote classroom environment. Activities are designed to ensure that students continue learning at the pace of the current Palmer 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 our identity as an outstanding school district, Palmer ISD will structure the students' learning schedule to require students to participate in synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded) learning depending on the identified learning model. It will be vital for teachers and parents to openly communicate the schedules for the students.

ARD/IEP committees will determine the unique needs of students who are IEP-entitled in making support and service recommendations for students attending school virtually. The nature of special education interventions will likely require a heavier concentration of synchronous supports and services to ensure individual student needs are met.

Palmer ISD expectations for synchronous (live) learning classes:

- Students attend class on time and every school day
- Students will dress appropriately
- Students are ready to learn
- Students should have a designated, distraction-free workspace to engage in learning
- Students will show their face on the screen to engage with the teacher virtually
- Students will participate in the class
- Attendance will be taken

Palmer ISD expectations for asynchronous (recorded) learning:

- Complete asynchronous activities assigned each school day
- Students show proof of participation (engagement) in daily virtual learning by satisfactorily completing assignments to demonstrate evidence of student learning ie. video, picture or activities submitted as lessons and/or completing assignments.
- Communicate with the teacher when needing additional assistance, tutoring, etc.
- Daily engagement equals daily attendance

Schedule

While in Palmer Remote, time management is critical to success. Students and teachers must remain in communication regarding daily schedules and assignments. As with any traditional course, there is a risk of receiving a lower grade if a student falls behind. If your student is struggling with time management, then they should contact their teacher for additional assistance.

In keeping with our identity as an outstanding school district, teachers will structure the instructional day to follow the PISD Daily Instructional Minute Schedule. Within each content instructional block, teachers will plan for students to participate in synchronous and asynchronous learning depending on the identified learning model. Teachers will structure small group time to differentiate instruction within the instructional block. This will require teachers to set up small group instruction schedules for students. It will be vital for teachers and parents to openly communicate the schedules for the students.

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.

Palmer Remote Grading

Grading for all Palmer Remote courses will follow the same grading policy as the courses in the face-to-face model. Palmer Remote courses that earn high school credit will count in GPA calculation and class rank.

Palmer Remote Teacher Expectations

Expectations for teachers in the asynchronous model will be to post the daily recorded lesson in Google Classroom, post any assignments in Google Classroom, document and monitor student daily engagement and attendance, grade and give feedback on all assignments, be available for questions, phone calls and emails from students and parents, make time available for individual and/or group interventions/tutoring. Teachers should also schedule, with the guidance from campus administration, a regular occurring synchronous (live) meeting/class time at least once a week.

Community health data continues to change in our Palmer ISD community, and we are continuously monitoring this information and adjusting our plans accordingly. We are sharing these preliminary plans with the understanding that as we get closer to August 17, 2020, plans could change based on conditions.

Part Two - Health & Safety Expectations for Students and Employees

Evolving Student Health Protocols

The district is following [TEA public health guidance for schools](#).

- All families (returning students or students newly enrolled) will complete an annual statement affirming, prior to the start of the school year, that they will adhere to all health and safety expectations developed by Palmer ISD.
- All students who accept on-campus instruction will be required to sign a statement at the beginning of the year that COVID-19 screenings will occur at home daily and that they will abide by COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Reminders will be posted.
- Families will NOT send students to school if they have a lab-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis or any of the following COVID-19 symptoms: feeling feverish or fever 100.0 or greater, loss of taste or smell, cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, headache, chills, sore throat, shaking or exaggerated shivering, significant muscle pain or ache, diarrhea. Families must immediately notify the school if a child has COVID-19 symptoms (described above) or if the student has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Families must also immediately notify the school if a child has had close contact with a symptomatic individual or an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and the student should not report to campus. After review by the school nurse, the student may be required to remain off-campus for up to a 14-day incubation period. Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to opt to have their students receive remote instruction for the 14-day incubation period.
- [TEA Guidelines](#): Students in grades PK-12 will wear face coverings on buses, hallways, common areas, and when social distancing is not feasible, including in classrooms, to the extent it is developmentally appropriate. This applies to both school (indoor and outdoor) and bus settings.

- Students will follow campus-specific guidelines to support social distancing to the fullest extent possible.
- Reminder posters outlining proper protocols will be prominently displayed for all employees and students to follow.

Evolving Employee Safety Protocols

The district is following [TEA Guidelines](#).

- Employees will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto a Palmer ISD campus/facility each day. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Employees must immediately report to their supervisor if the employee has COVID-19 symptoms (described below) or if the employee has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Employees will NOT report to a Palmer ISD facility or campus if they have any of the following COVID-19 symptoms (in a way that is not normal for the employee): feeling feverish or fever 100.0 or greater, loss of taste or smell, cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, headache, chills, sore throat, shaking or exaggerated shivering, significant muscle pain or ache, diarrhea.
- Per [TEA Guidelines](#), any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above) 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 three days (72 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.
- Employees must report to their supervisors if they have had close contact (as defined by [TEA's public health guidance](#)) with a symptomatic individual or an

individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. After review by Palmer ISD Health Services, the employee may be required to remain off-campus for up to a 14-day incubation period.

- All employees shall know and follow the established protocols to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 to stay safe to stay open.
- Employees will practice approved environment cleaning/disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- [TEA Guidelines](#): All employees will wear face coverings on buses, hallways, common areas, and when social distancing is not feasible, including in classrooms. This applies to both school (indoor and outdoor) and bus settings. Employees will have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that includes hand sanitizer, face coverings, and gloves.
- Reminder posters outlining proper protocols will be prominently displayed for all employees and students to follow.

Campus Procedures

- Palmer ISD will continue to educate our students, staff, and community members about the importance of frequent hand washing; covering a cough or sneeze; not touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth; staying home when sick, and other measures to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases.
- Campus administration will provide procedures to best protect employee and student safety in regards to student movement, personal space, physical distancing in community areas, organization of resources, and classroom supplies.
- Campuses will develop guidelines to minimize large gatherings, including, where appropriate, establishing varying traffic flow patterns for hallways, arrival and dismissal, and restroom use during busiest times of the school day.
- Students will not be allowed to use the water fountain for drinking but can use the water fountains to fill their water bottles. The district will provide at least two water bottle fillers at each campus.

Campus Cleaning & Disinfecting

- The district will create universal signage for all facilities including, but not limited to, signs for the use of face coverings per official orders, social distancing, hand-washing/sanitizing, directional signage for all employees and students.
- Proper cleaning and disinfecting of school workspaces, and high-traffic areas (e.g., bathrooms, cafeterias, libraries, faculty lounge rooms) will be conducted routinely throughout the day.

- All classrooms will be sanitized daily.
- All classrooms will be provided with wipes, cleaner, and hand sanitizer for students to clean their learning surfaces.
- Hand sanitation stations will be available at designated entrances and other areas throughout the building. Everyone will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene frequently.

Outdoor Spaces

- As recommended by CDC guidelines, Maintenance will not disinfect outside playground equipment. Signs indicating this information will be posted on all playgrounds.
- Students will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon re-entry to the building.

Student Attendance

- The health and well-being of all students and employees is a priority. If you are sick, stay home, learn from home if you can, and come back to school when you are healthy enough to do so.
- Palmer ISD will not award Perfect Attendance certificates during the 20-21 school year. This may be reviewed in future years.
- Attendance-related exemptions are not in effect for the 20-21 school year. This may be reviewed in future years.
- As always, contact your campus to report an absence, so we know how to best support your student while they are out sick.

Meals

- All child nutrition staff will use PPE while performing job responsibilities and will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations.
- Cafeteria, serving, and eating areas will be cleaned between uses.
- No guests will be allowed to come up to the schools for interaction with students.

Promoting Social Distancing

- Campuses will follow TEA guidelines to promote social distancing.
- [TEA Guidelines](#): Teachers will configure the classroom space for the number of students allowed. They will utilize desk placement and assigned seating to accommodate social distancing and will limit or eliminate group work in person. Teachers will use furniture for social distancing by identifying spaces as “Do Not Sit” or by other means rather than removing items from classrooms.

Nurses/Clinic

- In collaboration with Health Services and [guidance from TEA](#), campuses will implement protocols for students who require additional support from clinic staff, i.e., diabetes, medications, and regular care due to illness or injury, etc.
- Visits to the school clinic will be for essential services only.
- Campuses will utilize the school nurse to provide professional learning for students and employees regarding best practices for health and hygiene.

Transportation

- [TEA Guidelines](#): Students in grades PK-12 will wear face coverings on buses. Students are expected to bring their own face covering. Hand sanitizer will be provided as students enter and exit the bus.
- In all cases, windows will be lowered to allow for appropriate ventilation (weather permitting). Buses will be disinfected on a daily basis.
- Family members will be seated together, and seating charts will be used to limit possible exposure.
- Bus drivers and attendants will wear face coverings in the presence of students.

School/Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities will follow [TEA guidelines](#), UIL, community health organizations, and other agencies/organizations.
- The District is still awaiting guidance from organizations connected to our extracurricular activities. We will provide updates as we receive this information.
- Campuses will determine a schedule for using facility space that adheres to physical distancing guidelines.
- Records shall be kept of all students and staff who are in attendance at each practice/meeting/rehearsal.
- Any used equipment will be disinfected before another student uses it. All surfaces in practice/meeting/rehearsal areas will be thoroughly disinfected with PISD-approved solutions throughout and at the end of each day.
- Sharing water or food is prohibited.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will the daily sanitization protocols be?

All classrooms, restrooms and commons spaces will be cleaned and sanitization misting machines will be utilized daily. Buses and school vehicles will be sanitized twice daily prior use. All staff will have access to cleaning materials to utilize each day throughout the day.

Is Palmer ISD requiring daily screenings of students and staff?

Yes, students and staff will be required to self-screen daily prior to coming to the campus.

Will students and staff be required to wear face coverings?

Yes, per the Governor's Executive Order students are required to wear face coverings from Fourth grade and up. All employees and visitors are also required per the same order. When the order is removed, face coverings will no longer be required.

Why will face coverings be required in the classroom for older students but not for students in grades Pre-K to 3rd grade?

Per the Governor's Executive Order students at these grade levels are not required to wear a face covering. However, the Texas Education Agency is requiring face coverings for all students riding a bus route no matter the age or grade of the student.

How are Palmer ISD's protocols for face coverings impacted by Governor Abbott's Executive Orders?

They will be followed as long as an order is in place.

Can students and staff wear face coverings even when they are not required?

Yes, face coverings shall be appropriate to the educational environment not causing any disruptions. It should have appropriate logos, graphics, or designs. Bandanas will not be allowed. We recommend students face coverings that are a solid color, have a school or school club/organization logo or image, have a favorite college or trade school logo, or favorite sports team logo.

How will face covering compliance be enforced?

During the Governor's Executive Order period, it will be enforced for students in Fourth Grade and up, and for all employees. Once the order requirement for face coverings is removed, the district will no longer enforce use.

What will breakfast, lunch and recess look like?

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided to all Face to Face students in the cafeteria with some distancing at each table applied. If your child is going to eat breakfast from home or a local restaurant, we request that they eat it prior to coming to school.

Lunch will be provided in the cafeterias as well. Campuses are working to provide multiple lunch periods so distancing will be available.

Students will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash hands prior to entering the food service line for breakfast or lunch. All students (PK and up) and staff will wear face coverings while in the food service line area. Students will be allowed to remove face coverings while eating only. Face coverings will be required for PK and up when entering and exiting the cafeteria.

Recess will be provided daily when weather permits. Those students who are required to wear face coverings will do so while exiting the building and entering the building. Face coverings may be removed by the student while on the playground. Each classroom will be given a playground area time so that a limited number of students will be on the playground at any given time. Students will use hand sanitizer and will wear face coverings when entering the building.

Will Palmer ISD use partitions to provide a physical barrier between students in the classrooms or cafeteria?

No

Will Career and Technical courses continue into the 2020-21 school year?

Yes, it will be required that a student must be enrolled in the Face to Face option to participate in courses that require on-site activities, such as Welding.

Will school bus capacity be limited for those using district transportation?

The Texas Education Agency recommends that parents drop off and pick up students directly rather than use school transportation. The district is required to maintain a seating chart and will require families/households sit together on routes. The buses will distance as possible, but not required.

Students will use hand sanitizer, and must wear a face covering no matter the student's age or grade level. Face coverings will not be provided and students without them will be denied entrance onto the bus.

Will after-school tutoring or other programs take place this school year?

Yes, protocols will be determined and communicated prior to starting. Tutoring will not be limited to Face to Face Learning students only.

If a student tests positive, do classmates have to quarantine as well? What actions will be taken?

No, only lab tested confirmed cases will be required to quarantine. Students and staff in the classroom will be moved to a clean space to continue learning until the room is cleaned. The campus nursing staff will monitor the classroom or classrooms the confirmed case was in prior to quarantine. The campus principal will communicate the exposure to parents and guardians as soon as the expected case is confirmed.

What are the health criteria (student/city/county statistics) that would lead to a school closure?

State, County and City orders would be considered by the Board of Trustees on a case by case basis. The Superintendent may determine an emergency closure based on more than average loss in student attendance due to illness, consistent with flu season in the past. The district, if experiencing more than 10 percent drop in Face to Face attendance due to illness, may close for 2 or more days. Each emergency closure will be made up by additional minutes in the school calendar or additional days added in June to the 2020- 2021 school calendar.

Is there still a possibility that the district will choose the hybrid model with A and B Days for students to attend?

Implementing the hybrid model, we would only be able to teach half of the materials within the 45-minute class period or have to teach 2 lessons within one 45 minute class period...neither of which are instructionally sound.

Palmer ISD has considered that option and will continue to consider it as information changes and new guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is given.

What is the plan for special education students?

A student's individual education plan will be followed regardless of the learning environment such that all students with disabilities receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education. (FAPE)

All services that can be delivered remotely will be continued as allowed via multiple modes of instruction. Remote Learning instruction and Face to Face instruction may vary in frequency and duration as well as mode of delivery. Any needed changes will be updated in their individualized education plan. Face to face students will continue to receive services as currently stated in their individualized education plan. Should a remote student return to face to face instruction, they will return to their current schedule of services for the 2020-2021 school year.

Will grading be different between Face to Face Learning and Remote Learning?

No, as required by the Texas Education Agency all grading requirements will be the same.

Can Palmer ISD choose to move to a pass/fail grading system for students participating in Remote Learning?

No, it is required by the Texas Education Agency that Remote Learning follow the same grading policy as Face to Face Learning. The grading policy may not be changed.

How will Ranking and GPA work compared to Face to Face and Remote Learning? Class ranking and GPA calculations will be compiled according to the student handbook with no difference between Face to Face Learners and Remote Learners.

Will progress monitoring tests, class tests and standardized tests take place?

All progress monitoring and standardized testing is required to be taken on-campus. A testing room will be made available at each campus with staff available to proctor the testing separate from the Face to Face Learning student body. However, this testing room may hold up to 12 test takers socially distanced 6 feet apart with face coverings at one time.

Will a student's choice to participate in Face to Face or Remote Learning be noted on their transcript?

No

How did Palmer ISD determine what secondary classes will be offered synchronous vs. those offered asynchronous?

The Texas Education Agency determined that asynchronous was the only fully funded option provided to the district for grades Pre-K to 2nd grade. Palmer ISD reviewed data provided by the Texas Education Agency and other data that would indicate student success in some subjects at the secondary level is improved in a Synchronous platform.

Due to limited Internet and other resources, the district decided that Asynchronous would better fit our students' needs in other courses.

How will dual credit classes be handled?

Navarro College guidelines will continue to be followed as well as the Palmer ISD guidelines. Dual credit students may be required to come on-campus to test or complete work.

Will there be STAAR testing in the 2020-2021 school year?

The Texas Education Agency Commissioner Morath has determined that all STAAR Testing for the 2020-2021 school year will remain in place. This is not a local decision. You may direct all your comments to Commissioner Morath by contacting him at the Texas Education Agency.

Does Palmer ISD plan to change truancy or attendance policies?

No, the Texas Education Agency Commissioner Morath has determined that all truancy and attendance requirements will remain in place for the 2020-2021 school year. All students will be required to be actively involved in Remote Learning each day to count their attendance for the day. All students missing more than 90% attendance for the school year will be subject to district and state policy. To receive credit or a final grade, a student must attend the class at least 90% of the days it is offered. If a student fails to meet the 90% rule because of sickness, there will be an opportunity for an attendance committee meeting to address those absences.

How will off-campus Physical Education work for the 2020-2021 school year?

Students at school must wear a face covering while entering and exiting the Physical Education classroom. Students will be allowed to have their individual water bottle with them. Students do not have to wear face coverings during physical education activities, except when idle while instructions are being given or waiting to participate.

Students in Remote Learning will be given activities to complete and possibly required to provide a daily check list of activities or submit weekly recording of completing tasks.

I am not comfortable with what my former wife or husband wants to pursue for our child's educational environment, what are my options?

The school district is required to follow the last signed and dated court document provided by the parents to the campus administration. The district will not get in the

middle of a custody situation and will follow the court document as to who has educational decision-making authority. In the event the educational decision-making authority is shared by the parents per the latest signed and sealed court document provided to the district, the student will remain in Face to Face instruction until such time a mutual decision is made.

Which learning environment would we select if our child is interested in participating in Extracurricular activities?

Face to Face Learning only. All students will be required to attend Face to Face Learning if they wish to participate in extracurricular activities.

If I have chosen Remote Learning for my student. He is in a class that is following the Asynchronous Learning platform. He failed to complete Monday's measure of engagement on Monday but completed the assignment later in the week. He was counted absent on Monday. Can this be changed to Present because he did complete the assignment later in the week?

No. In the Remote Learning Asynchronous Platform method, student engagement is measured daily, and attendance is assigned based on the student's completion of that day's engagement measure. Student's who do not complete the daily measure of engagement are to be counted absent for that day, and that absence cannot be changed to Present even if the student completes the engagement measure later in the week.

My child is a Remote Learner. On Monday, my child completed all the work assigned for the entire week. Will my child get perfect attendance for the week because all the work was completed on Monday?

No. Student engagement is measured daily and the attendance for that day is based on the completion of that day's engagement measure on that day. Students who do not complete the daily measure of engagement on the assigned day are counted absent.

Can my child wear pajamas or be out of dress code when engaging with a class utilizing the Synchronous Learning platform?

No. Synchronous and Asynchronous students must adhere to the dress code when interacting with teachers and other students.

Can I walk my child to his/her classroom on the first day of school like what has been done in the past?

No this cannot happen this year due to COVID-19.

My child is a Remote Learner. Can he attend football games/basketball games/volleyball games and sit in the audience?

Your child should not be attending any school activities if they are not attending Face to Face learning.

If my child is sent home with symptoms and must stay home for an extended period, are they counted absent?

Yes, initially it will be counted as any other absence. But when the student is able to continue their learning (a decision made by the parent & campus administrator), then the student may transition to Remote Learning for a short period of time and be counted present as long as Remote Learning guidelines are followed. Once the student has been released by a doctor, they may transition back to Face to Face instruction.

If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks? Is their sick leave covered, paid?

The teacher must quarantine until the following 3 items have been met:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Once an employee has a positive lab tested case of COVID-19, then they may qualify for additional leave through the CARES Act. Employees will need to be in contact with the HR department once a positive test has been returned. Employees also receive State and Local days off that are paid.

If a teacher has been lab confirmed of having COVID-19, and before the teacher exhibits symptoms, they taught 5 classes a day with 30 students each. Do all 150 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days?

This would be considered secondary exposure and those students can still attend school and their daily activities. They need to be monitored daily. Parents and guardians are required to screen their child daily regardless. Parents and guardians would be notified of the exposure so they may monitor and take appropriate precautions much like any other illness.

Do all 150 of those students now have to get tested? Who pays for those tests? Are they happening at school? How are the parents being notified? Does everyone in each of those kids' families need to get tested? Who pays for that?

No, but the parents/guardians can certainly opt for testing since they will be notified. The district is not responsible for paying for testing. Free testing sites are available through the State and County Emergency Management.

Parents will receive notifications through the district's School Messenger system.

Not everyone in the household needs to get tested until one of the family members exhibits symptoms or decides to be tested early.

What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off from work to self-quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid?

The teacher will need to seek medical advice from a physician, wear proper protective gloves and mask, and most likely will need to be tested. This is no different than when a teacher gets the flu or other illnesses...family members are affected. If the teacher is unable to isolate from the sick member of the family, it may be required that they take off work or quarantine given the circumstances. The teacher will need to contact the HR department to see if they qualify for any other type of leave other than their personal and local days.

Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay?

Districts will conduct Substitute Teachers training and recruitment. The district may elect to have aides on the campus or available teachers to cover classrooms if needed or hire additional full-time aides.

Substitutes teach in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? Do all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? Who is going to pay for that?

The substitute teacher must have a lab confirmed case. Then parents will be notified, and students are monitored like the question above.

What if a student in your child's class tests positive? What if your child tests positive? Does every other student and teacher they have been around quarantine? Do we all get notified who is infected and when? Or because of HIPAA regulations are parents and teachers just going to get mysterious "may have been in contact" emails all year long?

Parents will be notified through the district's notification system. See the Required Actions section for steps to return to school after having COVID 19.

No, other students in the classroom will not have to be in quarantine. They will be notified so parents/guardians can monitor for symptoms. Parents/Guardians nor students will be given the sick student's name or medical condition, but you will know if your child was exposed.

What is this stress going to do to our teachers? How does it affect their health and well being? How does it affect their ability to teach? How does it affect the quality of education they are able to provide? What is it going to do to our kids? What are the long-term effects of consistently being stressed out?

School administrators, counselors, and nurses will help staff with stress and the social/emotional well-being of our staff and students.

Is a doctor's note required for not wearing a mask?

The requirement for 4th grade and up is a face covering. If a person is unable to wear a mask, they can choose to wear a face shield. A face covering is required.

Can I come up to my student's school and eat lunch with him/her?

No

Can I bring cupcakes, cookies or other treats to school?

No

TIPS FOR REMOTE LEARNING AT HOME

EXPECTED SUPPORT NEEDED TO BE SUCCESSFUL Parents and guardians choosing the Remote Learning option, not unlike a home school model or other remote options must understand supporting their child(ren) will require a great amount of time by the parent or guardian daily. The parent or guardian will need to be available to keep their child(ren) on task, support immediate questions by the child(ren), and monitor progress daily for success in the program. Attendance and grading policies of traditional school will still apply to students participating in Remote Learning per the Texas Education Agency.

DESIGNATE A LEARNING SPACE

Instead of trying to recreate school at home, create an environment that encourages your child to develop a new learning style and allows them to stay organized and ultimately be successful in Remote Learning. **DEVELOP A ROUTINE** Help your child create a balanced schedule that fits his or her school schedule (as much as possible). Reflect with your child and make adjustments to schedule as needed. Make sure you are reviewing lessons with your child daily and help them make a plan for completing assignments on time. Reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher during the workday with questions via email or the remote platform when necessary. Movement and brain breaks are essential. Intentionally plan for breaks throughout the day.

Remember, all Remote Learning Students are responsible for completing required items each day to maintain attendance for the 90% attendance rule per policy.

SET EXPECTATIONS

Discuss behavior expectations for your child(ren)'s learning time. Consider any expectations needed to fulfill all requirements and how those will be accomplished. Encourage your child(ren)'s to ask for help or communicate needs from the teacher and those that can only be provided by parent or guardian at home. It is expected that students are remote for synchronous lessons when scheduled and must complete and

submit lessons back at required times. Teachers and staff will not be available to answer questions after school hours as some were last year, and their time available to respond to questions will be limited.

USE YOUR RESOURCES

Reference the Remote Learning plans communicated by your child(ren)'s teacher. Visit teacher or grade level Google Classroom and/or web pages for more information. Contact the Help Desk at Helpdesk@Palmerisd.org if technical support is needed.

CELEBRATE

Discuss the challenges you and your child(ren) face and celebrate the achievements. This opportunity will allow your child to become a more