

Blum ISD Back-to-School Plan



As a district, we have created the following plan for the 2021-2022 school year. On campus instruction is scheduled to begin Wednesday, August 18, 2021. Blum ISD will not be offering remote learning. The following plan includes protocols to help prevent infectious, specifically COVID-19, viruses from entering the school.

In accordance with Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-38, all Blum students, staff, and visitors have the option of wearing masks or face coverings. They will not be required.

Guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA)

- Campus staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Disinfectants will be used for cleaning campuses.
- Students, teachers, and staff will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Social distancing and safety signage will be added and visible throughout school facilities.
- No outside visitors or parents will be allowed to come to school for lunch.
- Only main school entrances will be accessible after arrival times and remain that way throughout the day to help ensure effective management and safe screening of visitors.
- Blum ISD is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet any of the criteria for re-entry to the campus.

Health Pre-Screening for Staff and Students

- Students and staff are expected to take their own temperatures daily before arriving at school. Anyone with a fever of 100 or higher should not come to school or a BISD facility or function..
- Students and staff should also prescreen themselves for any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - 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
- Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.
- Campuses will have access to a touch-free forehead thermometer to check/verify temperatures throughout the day. Anyone with a 100 or higher temperature will need to leave school.
- Staff will be required to notify their immediate supervisor if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

Protocols for Individuals with COVID-19

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school/work when all three of the following criteria are met:

- 1) at least 24 hours have passed since recovery
(resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).
- 2) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and
- 3) at least 10 calendar 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/work 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 or b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

In the case of a student or employee that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until 10 days have passed since the positive test.

Quarantine and Notification Protocols

Based on guidelines released by the TEA, the only students and employees that will be required to quarantine are those that test positive for COVID-19 or those that are actively sick. Currently, nobody that could be identified as a close contact will be required to quarantine unless they also test positive. Blum ISD will continue to make public notifications of confirmed cases through REMIND.



General Information

Facial coverings, including masks, shields, and gaiters are optional.

Visitors must check in through the front office for screening.

Parent conferences, section 504, and ARD meetings will be held face-to-face unless requested by the parent to be held by phone.

Sprayers will be used to disinfect the building and buses.

Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the building.

Staff and students should wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time, especially after using the restrooms and before and after meals.

Campus buildings will open for student access at 7:30am.

Student field trips will be allowed.

Note: Decisions are made with information at the time and are subject to change with limited notice. Changes and updates to the plan are made with the consideration of ongoing stakeholder involvement and the opportunity for public comment.

Approved by the Local School Board

This plan was developed with the intent to provide a continuity of services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. BLUM ISD ensures that the interventions to be implemented will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English language learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

- 1. Follow the Center for Disease and Control and the Texas Education Agency guidelines to keep our students and staff safe.*
- 2. Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated closing-the-gap growth opportunities.*
- 3. Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.*
- 4. Make every attempt to keep schools open all year without experiencing school closure.*

All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.