



San Antonio Independent School District

Office of Academics and School Leadership
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(210) 554.2200

July 2021 Start of School

Family FAQ

1. Will remote learning options be available for the 2021-2022 school year?

The 87th Texas Legislature did not approve provisions to fund remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year. SAISD will continue to monitor information released from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Students who have a medically documented illness that prevents them from attending school in person may be eligible for homebound services. For additional information, staff should review the [Homebound Instructional Services memo](#) and parents should complete the form linked below.

- [English](#) Parent Brochure
- [Spanish](#) Parent Brochure

2. What safety protocols will be followed in August?

The District will continue to monitor information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health), and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). There is broad agreement that air quality, mask wearing, handwashing, sanitizing, testing, and vaccination can mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As such, the District will continue to reinforce these best practices.

- **Hand Washing**

Students will continue to be instructed on [proper handwashing](#) and will be provided time within the school day to wash their hands.

- **Mask Wearing**

While the Governor's Executive Order forbids government entities from mandating mask wearing, the CDC recommends that all individuals should always wear masks indoors. Individuals who are outdoors should wear masks if they are in congregate settings and unable to socially distance.

Mask wearing will be encouraged when indoors for all individuals. If you do not want your child to wear a mask, please use this [link to opt your child out of wearing a mask while at school](#).

- **Sanitizing**

In SAISD, alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers are located in each classroom, as well as throughout common areas on each campus. As recommended by CDC, our alcohol-based hand sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol.

Both horizontal and vertical high-touch surfaces in learning areas will be cleaned daily using an Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) approved cleaning and disinfecting solution, followed by weekly surface treatment using an electrostatic applicator. High-touch surfaces in common areas such as hallways and bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected several times daily using the EPA-approved solution.

Cleaning and disinfecting is required frequently on high-touch surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, and/or games) should be limited when possible or cleaned between use.

All spaces occupied by a person who tests positive for COVID-19 will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours.

- ***Water Systems***

To minimize the risk of illness associated with drinking from the same water fountain, all water fountains will be converted to water bottle filling stations. Students and staff will be asked to bring water bottles daily.

- ***Safety Precautions on Buses***

Social distancing will be implemented on buses to the maximum extent possible. Students will be seated two to a seat, every other window, hand sanitizer stations will be available, and roof hatches will be open (weather permitting).

Individuals riding school buses are recommended to wear masks.

- ***Plexiglass Dividers and Partitions***

Plexiglass barriers have been provided to schools to use in public areas where three feet of social distancing might be a challenge (e.g., reception desks, cafeterias).

Where appropriate, schools will provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to facilitate staff and students with social distancing.

- ***Air Filtration***

The District continues to implement an aggressive preventive maintenance program of the HVAC systems to ensure systems are functioning as intended. In response to COVID-19, staff moved early to improve the air filtration of these systems by changing standard filters to higher efficiency filters designated as MERV-11. These filters are intended to remove micro particles from the air as they move through air handling devices. With the issuance of more recent guidelines of Indoor Air Quality by the CDC and ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning), the District is now using MERV-13 high efficiency filters where possible.

- **Screenings, Temperature Checks, Rapid Testing, and PCR Testing**

Individuals should stay home when they have any infectious illness.

SAISD will follow basic guidelines recommended by CDC & Metro Health. Campuses can go beyond the minimum guidelines. This includes conducting temperature checks and screening upon entry into the building.

We anticipate that PCR testing will continue in the Fall pending available funding.

TEA anticipates that rapid testing resources will continue to be provided to ISDs. SAISD hopes to provide rapid testing for extracurricular participation pending available funding.

SAISD will continue to use cohort models when appropriate to limit student exposure, especially for early childhood students.

- **Vaccinations**

Currently, public schools cannot require individuals to provide proof of vaccination status; however, SAISD is requesting that all staff and students provide this information to improve our ability to keep staff and students safe. The purpose for collecting information regarding vaccination is to inform the District about students or staff members who may be identified as high-risk exposures and who may require quarantining.

Parents will be asked to provide evidence of vaccination status for their children through the campus nurses and the Student Health Services Department after the start of school.

- **Vaccine Clinics**

We will continue to provide opportunities for all eligible students (ages 12 and older), families, and staff to get vaccinated.

- *A COVID vaccination clinic will be held at SAISD's [Back-to-School Resource Fair](#) on Saturday, July 31, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Freeman Coliseum Expo Hall.*
- *Vaccination Clinic Schedule*
 - *Except for the clinic scheduled for ALA/CAST Tech/ Fox Tech, all other clinics will be open to students in the comprehensive high school feeder patterns and students from the smaller high school campuses. Family members may also receive vaccines while supplies last. Parents will be asked to register students in advance for each clinic. Walk-ins will be accommodated if supply is available.*

Date	Time	Location	Provider	Function
July 31 st	10:00 - 2:00	Freeman Coliseum	Wal-Mart	Back to School Resource Fair
July 31 st	9:00 - noon	ACC	Texas Military Department	Athletics Physicals
August 4 th	1:00 - 4:00	Jefferson HS	Metro Health	Vaccine Clinic
August 5 th	1:00 - 4:00	Brackenridge HS	Texas Military Department	Vaccine Clinic
August 5 th	1:00 - 4:00	Burbank HS	Texas Military Department	Vaccine Clinic
August 5 th	1:00 - 4:00	Sam Houston HS	Texas Military Department	Vaccine Clinic
August 5 th	4:00 - 7:00	ALA / CAST TECH / Fox Tech	University Health	Vaccine Clinic
August 6 th	1:00 - 4:00	Edison HS	Texas Military Department	Vaccine Clinic
August 6 th	2:00 - 6:00	Highlands HS	Metro Health	Vaccine Clinic
August 6 th	1:00 - 4:00	Lanier HS	Texas Military Department	Vaccine Clinic

- [*For additional vaccination options, please visit the SAISD website.*](#)

- **Contact Tracing**

SAISD will align with CDC guidelines to determine when individuals are identified as close contacts and are required to quarantine:

- *Individuals who are fully vaccinated will **not** have to quarantine if exposed to a lab-confirmed case as long as they are asymptomatic.*
- *Individuals who are not fully vaccinated as defined below:*
 - *If an individual is exposed to a positive person for 15 cumulative minutes or longer within a 24 hour day, and they were within 6 feet of the individual, then they may be considered a close contact which would require a quarantine period for the exposed individual.*
 - *If the exposure is from a positive student to another student, then the exposed student is not considered to be a close contact that requires quarantining if both the exposed student and the positive student were consistently and correctly masked, and they were 3-6 feet apart.*
 - *If the exposure is adult to student or adult to adult, then the exposed individual will be considered a close contact if they were within 6 feet of each other, and they were not both consistently and correctly masked.*
- *Student cases will be traced by campus nurses. If cases are identified over weekends, then Human Resources is contacted, so another nurse can be secured if necessary.*

Parent and Staff Notifications

Notices will be sent to parents of enrolled students and staff when a lab-confirmed case is identified for the campus.

3. How long do staff and students need to be out when they are designated a “close contact?”

Ten calendar days.

4. Will PPE and sanitizing products be provided?

Yes. Staff and students will be provided with disposable face masks as needed. Custodians can provide additional sanitizer and cleaning supplies as needed.

5. Will volunteers be allowed on campus in August?

Yes. All volunteers must be approved through the volunteer system. Volunteers on campus must follow all safety protocols implemented at the campus and must be vaccinated.

6. I have concerns about my child’s progress and want him/her to be retained?

Contact your school counselor. For additional information, please read the documents linked below:

- <https://tea.texas.gov/repeatgrade>
- <https://tea.texas.gov/restartkinder>

Requests for retention should be submitted in writing using the form below.

- <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/tea-21075-grade-repeat-request-form.pdf>

7. Will uniforms be required for students?

All students must adhere to the District’s dress code for the 2021-22 school year, which has been updated for the 2021-2022 school year.

The new policy expands clothing options for our students in middle and high school grades, and gives lower grade levels the option of wearing jeans. The new guidelines also allow students to wear their natural hairstyles and religious head coverings. Read the full policy here: <https://schools.saisd.net/upload/page/9349/docs/FNCALOCALBoardApproved.pdf>

The District has several programs available to assist families with the purchase of uniforms. Currently, SAISD Uniform Services has a uniform closet with the inventory to support approximately 5,000 students in need of a basic school uniform.

Additional funding is available to help families purchase uniforms. Parents can submit an application to SAISD Uniform Services to receive uniform vouchers for use with any of the District’s four approved vendors.

The District also has support services, including uniform assistance, available to families experiencing homelessness.

Uniforms, shoes, and undergarments will be available at the SAISD Back to School Resource Fair on Saturday, July 31, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Freeman Coliseum Expo Hall. Call (210) 554-2210 or email familyengagement@saisd.net for information about this event.

For more information about any of these services, please email saisdschoolsocialworkers@saisd.net or call (210) 554-2635.

For specific information by campus, please refer to the [specific campus web page](#).