



*Galena Park ISD Return to  
In-Person Instruction and  
Continuity of Services Plan*

*2022- 2023*

Galena Park Independent School District (GPISD) is committed to:

- providing a healthy and safe learning environment for all students, staff and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic
- working together to provide quality care and guidance to students, staff and parents on all health issues
- helping to reduce the transmission and spread of COVID-19 while balancing the need to maintain a strong education system that effectively supports staff, students and communities
- collaborating with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), Harris County Public Health (HCPH) and GPISD staff to support students, staff and the community.

### ***Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students and Staff***

The purpose of this plan is to provide information and guidance regarding the health and safety of students, educators, other school and district staff and the community in GPISD. The items included outline the policies, practices and strategies that GPISD has implemented and recommendations that should be considered to optimize education and promote health and safety, while mitigating risk throughout the school year.

GPISD will adapt guidelines for Athletics, Fine Arts, and other activities governed by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). All policies and procedures are designed to conform to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) safety requirements, as described below:

#### ***Wearing of Masks***

As of Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. masks are optional in Galena Park ISD. Masks are available and will be provided upon request.

#### ***Facilities***

The following facility upgrades have been implemented at our campuses:

- Campuses have all been supplied with sanitizing stations in all hallways and classrooms.
- New water fountains all have bottle filling stations.

Guidelines have been adapted for athletics, fine arts, and other UIL activities. The following classroom configurations have been made:

- As feasible, each student will be assigned his/her own supplies.
- Supplies that must be shared will be made of easily cleanable surfaces and disinfected between uses (example: calculators).

### ***Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette***

- All parents are responsible for ensuring that a daily self-screening of each student occurs prior to entering a GPISD facility or boarding school transportation.
- All students and staff will practice appropriate social distancing and good hygiene.
- Students will participate in scheduled handwashing times throughout the day, and will be encouraged to routinely wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available for all students and staff in all classrooms.

### ***Cleaning and Maintaining Facilities***

GPISD will maintain a very strict cleaning/disinfecting protocol of facilities and equipment, as recommended by local, state and federal authorities. The following procedures will be followed in order to reduce the risk of exposure:

- In each classroom, custodial staff put on clean gloves before entering the room, and clean all high-traffic areas with individual color-coded (green for classrooms) microfiber cloths.
- When finished, they dispose of the cloths in a designated bag used only for dirty cloths.
- The classroom is swept, and then sprayed down with an EMist Machine containing hospital-grade cleaning chemicals.
- Classroom cleaning is finalized by mopping the floors.
- The custodian then disposes of their gloves, and cleans their hands at the nearest sanitizing station in the hallway before proceeding to the next classroom.
- Restroom cleanings are documented on a log sheet that is maintained in each restroom.
- Each surface is cleaned with a microfiber towel, color-coded pink to avoid cross-contamination with classrooms (which are only cleaned with green color-coded towels).
- An EMist Machine is used to spray the entire restroom.
- Lastly, the floors are mopped.
- After leaving the restroom, the staff member disposes of their gloves and sanitizes their hands at the nearest sanitizing station in the hallway.
- At the end of the shift, trash bags are sealed tightly for disposal.
- Microfiber towels are washed in the washing machine.
- The custodial staff member washes their hands before leaving the facility.
- Student Nutrition staff will ensure that all areas of food establishment are disinfected and sanitized throughout the day.

### ***Improving Ventilation***

We are currently upgrading all of our schools' ventilation systems to a MERV rating of 11 or higher, and all school clinics will be provided with an air purification system.

### ***Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School***

Vaccinations for community, staff and students are available at our GPISD Legacy Clinics, and also at community vaccination events that will be hosted and publicized by GPISD throughout the year.

### ***Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities***

Our special education staff will continue to work with parents, students, and teachers to determine the need for special education services. Students who receive special education services will continue to be provided these services as defined by their Individualized Education Plans. The following accommodations will be provided as appropriate in special education settings:

- Manipulatives that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
- Manipulatives that children have placed in their mouths should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves.
  - Clean with water and soap, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again and air-dry.
  - May be cleaned in a dishwasher.
  - Enough manipulatives should be available so they can be rotated between cleanings.
- Staff will wash hands prior to diapering, wear gloves, and wash hands immediately following changings.
- Surfaces used to change students should be cleaned by a district-approved disinfectant.
- If staff are working closely with a student and there is a possibility of fluid contamination, an isolation gown should be worn.
- Staff are encouraged to protect themselves by wearing an over-large, button-down, long-sleeved shirt.
- Staff with long hair will wear it up, off the collar.
- Staff should wash their hands, neck and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
- Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag or washed in a washing machine.
- Students will be monitored when utilizing hand sanitizer.
- Classroom manipulatives that will be shared amongst students will be cleaned frequently. As feasible, each student will be assigned his/her own supplies.
- Equipment will be disinfected frequently.

### ***Coordination with State and Local Health Officials***

GPISD provides reports and receives updates from the following local health entities:

- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Harris County Public Health
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)

GPISD also coordinates with the following entities to provide assistance for GPISD families:

- East Harris County Empowerment Council
- Veritex Community Bank
- Harris County Precinct 3 Community Outreach Division
- Joseph House Outreach Center

### ***Continuity of Services***

#### **Academic Progress**

For the 2022-2023 school year, GPISD will be face-to-face, five days a week, for all students.

GPISD is a 1 to 1 district, meaning all of our students have access to a district Chromebook to use as an instructional support tool for learning.

GPISD will address learning loss among students and implement evidence-based activities through a balanced assessment system that personalizes individual learning pathways for students.

The following data will be used to identify students most in need of academic support and intervention through small group or individual tutoring:

Elementary Math:

- STAAR
- iReady (EOY, MOY screener)
- Guided math observational notes
- District Assessments

Elementary Reading:

- STAAR
- iStation (EOY screener)
- mClass (BOY screener)
- BAS/Sistema (BOY screener)
- Guided reading running records
- Guided reading anecdotal notes
- District Assessments

Elementary Science:

- STAAR
- District Assessments

Secondary-Core Courses:

- STAAR/EOC
- BOY/MOY/EOY District Assessments
- Benchmarks

### **Transportation**

GPISD will modify or adjust transportation services as required by local, state, or federal health authorities. Bus transportation is provided for Special Education students when required by the students ARD and IEP. All general education students will be provided transportation if eligible from the designated transportation areas to each campus.

- Parents are encouraged to screen their student for fever and COVID-19 symptoms prior to students entering the bus.

Required Bus Sanitation Guidelines:

- Buses will be disinfected using the EPA-approved antimicrobial misting system on a rotating basis, based on manufacturer specifications.

### **Student Nutrition**

GPISD will modify menus, service and daily operations provided by the Student Nutrition Department as a mitigation measure. Each campus will establish meal service that meets the following criteria:

- Meal service may include classroom service.
- Disposable food service items will be used to the greatest extent possible.
- Hands-free transactions with ID badges will be used to the greatest extent possible.

### **Social/Emotional Student Support**

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing a tremendous amount of stress, fear and anxiety for many people. It's important that students, parents and staff have access to the mental health care resources they need to stay well during this challenging time. Our schools will play an important role in helping students and staff cope, access needed resources and build resilience.

GPISD has multiple resources available to assist in this effort including but not limited to the following staff members:

- Campus counselors and nurses
- Dr. Seretha Augustine, Senior Director for Student Support Services
- Dr. Karen Haynes, Director of Mental Health and Social Services
- Curby Rogers, Licensed Mental Health and Student Support Specialist
- Vanessa Squirrel, Director of School Culture
- Teresa Rainer, District Lead Nurse
- Legacy Clinics (CLF, GVE, GPMS, and NSSH)

District personnel should encourage staff, students and families to talk with people they trust about their feelings and concerns regarding COVID-19.

GPISD counselors work together to ensure all students and staff receive ongoing emotional and mental health support as we navigate through COVID-19.

GPISD has joined school districts across the country to become part of the *Student Coalitions for Peace* movement. Our school district recognizes that we all have a role to play in combating bias and bullying as a means to stop the escalation of hate. We all work on improving and maintaining school climate so all students can thrive.

GPISD has Boys' and Girls' Clubs at every campus. These Boys' and Girls' clubs provide students with leadership development, etiquette instruction, and opportunities for students to learn about personal growth and positive character traits including honesty, perseverance, integrity and self-discipline.

Social Emotional Learning lessons are offered to GPISD students to develop important skills such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

Resources for supporting mental health and wellness:

Family resources can be found at [GPISD Counseling Resources Link](#).

### **Recess**

Use of playground equipment is permitted. Use of hand sanitizer before and after use is encouraged.

### **UIL**

The district will comply with all University Interscholastic League (UIL) Risk Mitigation Guidelines for events covered by UIL

*Revised 08/16/22*