



**Arlington**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*More Than a Remarkable Education*

# Return to School Plan for the 2020 - 2021 School Year

July 23, 2020



# Message from Dr. Marcelo Cavazos, Superintendent

These have been difficult times. COVID-19 has presented persistent challenges for students, teachers, staff and the community as we attempt to navigate through one of the most complex crises to face the business of education. We believe that the best way to work through a crisis is together – and together is how we will move forward as we plan to “Return to School.”

As we prepare to resume school in the fall, we have been faced with difficult decisions about what school will look like and how we will provide the best education for all students. We have approached this work understanding the weighted responsibility placed on us with minimal time to prepare and less guidance from the State. In place of that, we established a core set of beliefs that reflect our highest priorities as we plan for the return to school: the health and safety of our students, staff and community; the consistent delivery of a rigorous curriculum; ensuring educational equity for every student in every grade; listening to key stakeholder feedback to inform our decision-making; extending flexibility and grace throughout the process and providing clear and concise communication to parents, teachers, students and the community.

The context in which we are operating today is one of uncertainty and that isn't likely to change as policies from federal, state and local governments are ever-changing. Expectations about wearing masks, social distancing and contact tracing are continually shifting. That means we must be flexible in our ability to plan for and adapt to changing circumstances. We are committed to doing that and we ask that you also be flexible as we roll out plans for the return to school.

When we return to school on August 17, our plan will begin with virtual instruction. When it is safe, we will add in-person instruction. To re-open school is a Herculean task that we are undertaking with guidance from Tarrant County Public Health and the Arlington Public Health Authority. They are sharing their best practices and expanding our thinking as we consider the many complexities of how to address safety protocols, academics, student transportation, meal programs, special education students, playground safety, extracurricular activities and more. We need to promote a safe and inclusive environment for everyone including a focus on the social and emotional needs our students and staff will have as a result of this pandemic.

We have a tremendous amount of work ahead. This plan represents the beginning of our school year which will be virtual through September 27, 2020. We will keep you informed of changes along the way by email and at [aisd.net/returntoschool](https://aisd.net/returntoschool).

I thank you for your patience, commitment and partnership as we return to school for the 2020 – 21 school year.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Marcelo Cavazos  
Superintendent



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# OUR SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES



**The Arlington ISD is working to ensure that the start of the new school year is safe for students and staff, prioritizes a rigorous learning experience, ensures educational equity, considers decisions based on stakeholder feedback, is flexible and issues clear and concise communication to families, staff and students.**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY** – The Arlington ISD will do everything possible to protect the health of every student, employee and community member. Planning and implementation of safe practices is a collaborative effort with Tarrant County Public Health and the Arlington Public Health Authority and guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**RIGOROUS LEARNING** – The District will ensure that every student receives high-quality instruction across in-person and online environments to support student achievement.

**EDUCATIONAL EQUITY** – The District will provide all students with the necessary tools, technologies and access to instruction along with social and emotional support.

**STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS** – The District has and will continue to seek feedback from key stakeholders to help inform important decisions. Stakeholders can include students, teachers, staff and community members.

**FLEXIBILITY AND GRACE** – The District will build a flexible plan that can be adjusted throughout the year and based on guidance from public health officials. The District asks for grace from and will extend grace to all families, students, staff and community members as we all grapple with the uncertainties ahead.

**CLEAR AND CONCISE COMMUNICATION** – The District will ensure that families, students and staff have the information they need to be safe and informed and that the information will be communicated by email, posted to the Return to School website and on Facebook and Twitter. Questions can be sent at any time to [pio@aisd.net](mailto:pio@aisd.net).

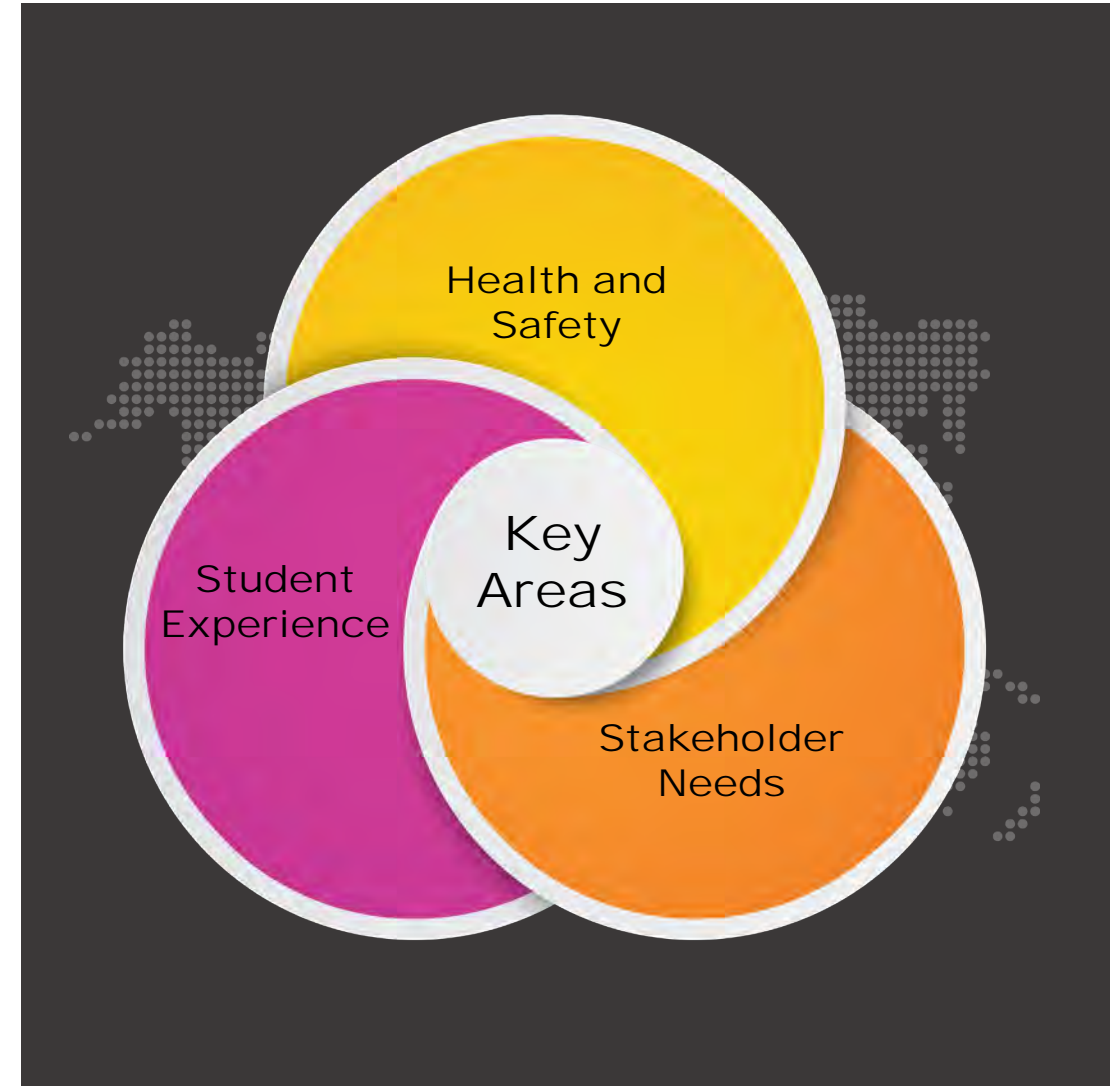


# RETURN TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE

In May, the District established a robust Return to School Task Force to address multiple topic areas and provide recommendations for a safe return to school that also provides a rigorous learning experience. In total, 16 committees were formed to address multiple complex concerns. Each committee considered the key areas of **Health and Safety**, **Student Experience** and **Stakeholder Needs** as they discussed options for the 2020 - 21 school year.

## Return to School Task Force Committees:

- Community and Parent Partnerships
- Enrollment and Attendance
- Fine Arts / Athletics
- Food Services
- Grading Policy
- HR and Staffing
- Internal and External Communications
- Operations
- Professional Learning and Coaching
- Safety
- Social and Emotional Health
- Student Conduct and PBIS
- Student Services
- Teaching and Learning
- Technology and Data Systems
- Transportation

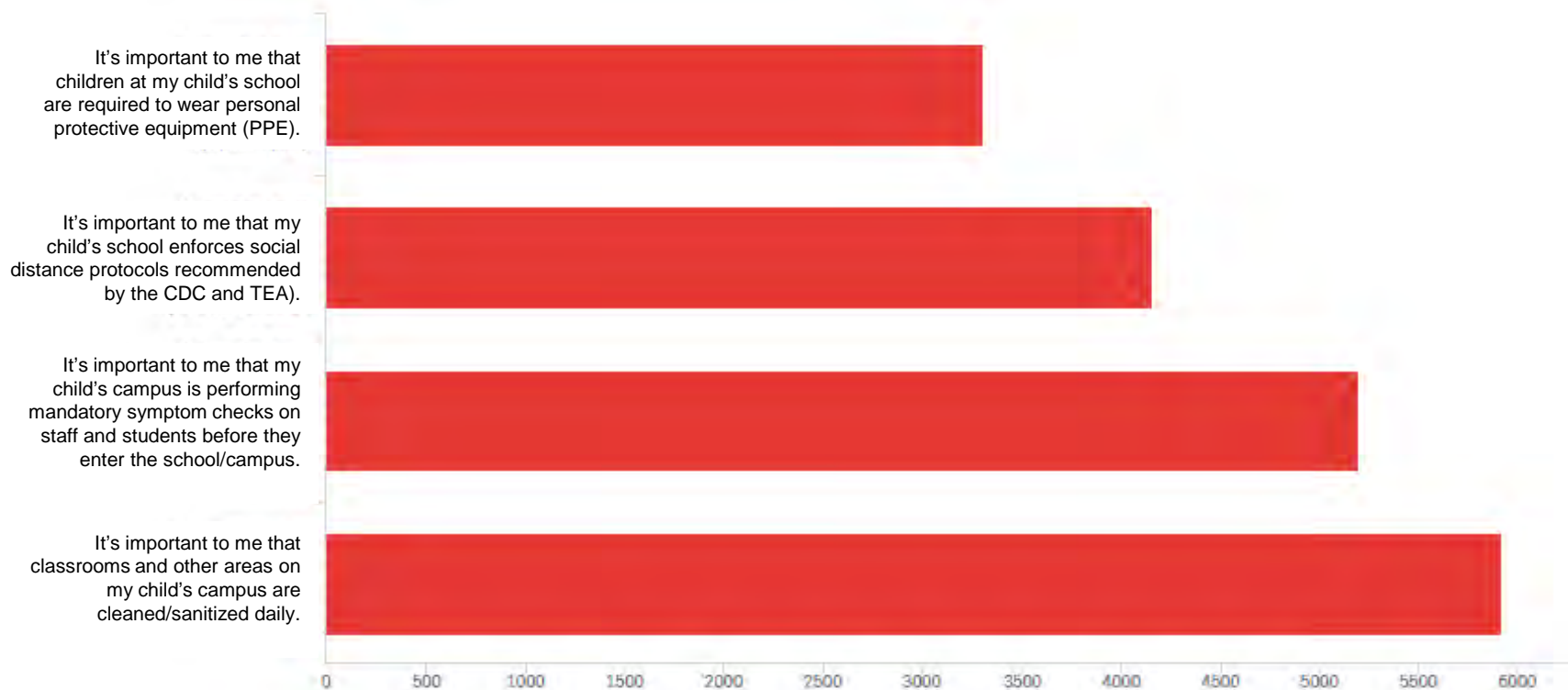


# INPUT TO INFORM

Feedback from our key stakeholders has been an essential part of our planning and will continue to be gathered from parents, teachers, staff and partners. With the nature of the virus rapidly changing, we will continue to solicit input to inform current-day decisions.

We issued online surveys to parents, students and teachers beginning in May. We wanted to understand how each stakeholder group responded to the shift from in-person instruction to online learning in the spring and to learn how stakeholders felt about returning to school. We will continue to seek feedback and use it to help us prioritize and refine options.

**Please select which of the following options are important to you in regard to your child returning to school. Select all that apply.\***



*\*Example of survey question posed to parents on May 22, 2020*



# HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of every student, employee and school visitor remains the No. 1 priority for the Arlington ISD. We recognize that school buildings and office spaces must be safe places to work. In partnership with Tarrant County Public Health and the Arlington Public Health Authority, combined with guidance from the CDC and the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the District has carefully reviewed and adjusted practices and systems related to social distancing, personal protective equipment and hygiene protocols.

The following chart shows the recommendations from the TEA and the Arlington ISD requirements that will be in place for the Return to School plan when it is safe to return.



## TEA RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS



### FACE COVERINGS

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



### SOCIAL DISTANCING

Where feasible, without disrupting the education experience, encourage students to practice social distancing.



### HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Schools should attempt to have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water at each entrance. They should also attempt to provide hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water in every classroom.



### HEALTH SCREENINGS

Schools must require teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. School systems may consider screening students for COVID-19 as well.



### CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Campuses should institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

## ARLINGTON ISD RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Students in grades 1 - 12 will be required to wear masks for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
- Employees and visitors will be required to wear masks.

- Social distancing will be implemented when and where possible, but can't be guaranteed.

- Everyone entering the building will be required to hand wash or use hand sanitizer.
- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer as they move from room to room.
- Each classroom will have hand sanitizer, spray sanitizer liquid, paper towels, facial tissues and a trash can with a liner that is changed daily.

- A health screening questionnaire will be required one time each week for students.
- A health screening will be required for staff and visitors daily.
- Temperature checks will be required before students, staff or visitors enter facilities.

- All desks must be sanitized between students.
- All shared supplies, including technology, must be sanitized between uses.
- Custodial work will be conducted throughout the school day to include disinfecting common surfaces.







## FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings that cover the nose and mouth will be required for all students in grades 1 - 12 for whom it is developmentally appropriate. Face coverings are defined as a cloth covering or non-medical disposable mask.

Face coverings will also be required for all employees and visitors to any District facility. Parents are asked to provide face coverings; however, the Texas Education Agency has allotted an amount to the District that can be provided if a mask breaks or a visitor arrives without a face covering.



# SOCIAL DISTANCE

Social distancing helps to keep students at a safe distance from one another (6 feet) and minimizes the number of face-to-face interactions.

The Arlington ISD will incorporate social distancing in facilities where possible and incorporate reminders such as:

- Interior and exterior signage reminding students, employees and visitors to maintain social distancing at entrances, elevators, hallways, lunchrooms, etc.
- Pre-measured floor markings to assist students, employees and visitors to maintain their distance
- Seating adjustments to be made in classrooms and other activity areas to allow for distance between students and staff where possible





# HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Hand washing stations in all facilities will be stocked daily with ample soap and water and hand sanitizing stations will be available in all common areas. Anyone entering the facility is required to use hand sanitizer or the hand washing station. Students are required to use hand sanitizer when changing rooms and encouraged to use hand washing stations before eating and after using the restroom.

Everyone will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then discard the tissue in the trash.

Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be implemented at each facility and custodial staff will also disinfect workstations, equipment, light switches, doorknobs and other common surfaces.

# HEALTH SCREENINGS

To help minimize exposure to the virus, students will be required to complete a weekly health questionnaire to assess if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to anyone with the virus. The results of the questionnaire will be used to determine if the individual should go to school or stay home.

Employees and visitors will be required to complete a daily health questionnaire.



# CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

Tarrant County Public Health and the Arlington Public Health Authority have assisted the Arlington ISD with a process for reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19. If we receive confirmation that a student or employee has tested positive for COVID-19, prompt action will be taken to notify public health officials and implement contact tracing, self-isolation measures, communication with families and thoroughly clean and disinfect the facility. The identity of the person will be strictly safeguarded.

If any person – student, teacher or staff – tests positive for COVID-19 with a laboratory test or experiences symptoms of COVID-19 they must stay home through the infection period and cannot return to campus until they have been fever-free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications. Arlington ISD health services professionals will screen each case before authorizing a return.

If a student shows symptoms while at school they will be isolated until a parent or guardian can pick them up.

Arlington ISD will notify all teachers, staff and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified on any campus or at a campus activity.

Arlington ISD health services officials will require self-isolation for anyone in close contact with a person with a lab confirmed COVID-19 case. Close contact is defined as being within six feet of another person/s for 15 minutes or more.



**COVID-19 TRACKER**





**IN-PERSON  
CLASSES**



**LEARNING  
MODELS**




**ONLINE  
CLASSES**

# LEARNING MODELS

When we return to school, we understand that not all parents and students will be ready to return to the classroom. COVID-19 information changes rapidly so the District wanted to ensure that you have a choice for your children between virtual learning and in-person learning.


## IN-PERSON LEARNING\*



When it is safe to return to school, in-person learning will be available at each campus and for each grade. Students will receive face-to-face instruction from their teachers.

*\*Though we're targeting to open school doors after September 27, 2020, we understand that there's a possibility that virtual learning could continue.*

## VIRTUAL LEARNING



Virtual learning will provide students with an ambitious curriculum and offer real-time instruction with their classroom teachers supplemented with self-guided lessons. An emphasis will be placed on student achievement, numerical grades used to calculate GPA's and daily attendance. Devices and online connectivity will be available for students who need them. Online tutoring, support services for Special Education students and Bilingual and ESL students will be provided. Students in Specialized Programs or Career Tech programs will continue on their path in the virtual learning environment.



# OPERATIONS

**THE DISTRICT APPROACHES THE DAY-TO-DAY SCHOOL OPERATIONS BY LOOKING AT:**

- 1) GETTING TO SCHOOL
- 2) ENTERING SCHOOL
- 3) BEING INSIDE THE SCHOOL
- 4) LEAVING SCHOOL
- 5) MEAL PROGRAM
- 6) UIL ACTIVITIES AND CAREER TECH TRAINING
- 7) MOVING BETWEEN IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL LEARNING





# GETTING TO SCHOOL

We understand and are planning for students to arrive at school in multiple ways including walking, transportation by personal vehicle and District bus service.

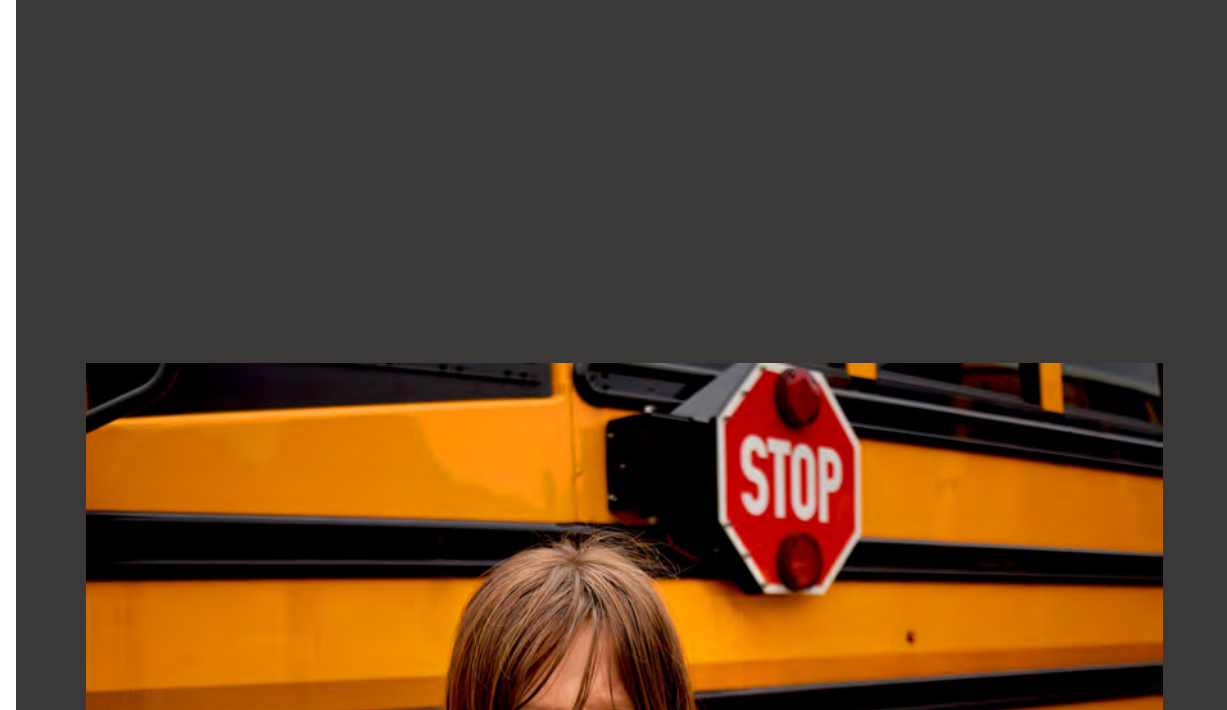
All students riding the bus will use hand sanitizer when they board. Buses will be sanitized between groups of students. Students in grades 1 - 12 for whom it is developmentally appropriate will be required to wear masks when riding the bus.

If possible, parents are encouraged to walk their kids to school or drop-off to minimize exposure and increase social distancing on buses. If a student becomes ill at school, they won't be allowed to ride the bus home. They will be cared for in a safe area until a parent can pick them up.

The Arlington ISD will do everything possible to create social distancing for students riding the bus.

# ENTERING SCHOOL

All students will have an assigned report location for entry to the facility to help with social distancing



# BEING INSIDE THE SCHOOL

**Restroom Breaks** - Additional restroom breaks will be scheduled throughout the day to encourage social distancing.

**Desks** - Where possible, desks in classrooms will all be turned to face the same direction.

**Playgrounds** - All students will receive hand sanitizer on their way on and off the playground.

# LEAVING SCHOOL

Multiple exits will be utilized to promote social distancing as students and staff leave the building. All students and staff will leave the building no later than one hour after the final bell. Should a student still be in the building after one hour, they will be taken to a designated area until they can be picked up.



# MEAL PROGRAM

Breakfast and lunch will be offered for both in person and virtual learning models. Meals will be charged based on normal student meal account status: Free, Reduced-price or Paid.

Unlike the spring and summer, students must be enrolled in Arlington ISD and have a student ID number for meal pick-up.

## **IN-PERSON BREAKFAST**

For eligible students in grades K - 12 entering school in the morning, they will be offered a Grab-n-Go breakfast to be eaten in the classroom or a designated area.

Pre-K students will be served breakfast in the classroom.

## **IN-PERSON LUNCH**

Pre-K students will be served lunch in the classroom.

All other grades will be escorted to the cafeteria to pick up their meals and escorted back to their classrooms or a designated area to eat.

All high school campuses will be closed at lunchtime for students and staff. No food deliveries or visitors will be allowed in the building during lunch periods. Students and staff can bring a lunch and/or snacks to school.

## **CURBSIDE MEALS FOR VIRTUAL LEARNERS**

Students engaged in virtual learning will have access to meals at 17 locations Monday - Friday from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Meals are designed to be heated at home.

If the district is only conducting virtual learning, curbside meal service will occur from 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. twice per week from 25 sites.



# UIL ACTIVITIES

Students who select virtual learning can participate in UIL sponsored activities such as fine arts and athletics as they are permitted by UIL and public health officials.

# CAREER TECH TRAINING

Students who are participating in Career Tech programs can attend courses that require skills training be done in person as they are permitted by public health officials.



*Every attempt will be made to provide transportation for virtual students to get to a campus at various times of the day; however, this can not be guaranteed at this time.*

# MOVING BETWEEN IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

While many districts are only allowing movement between online and in-person learning at the end of a grading period, the Arlington ISD wants to provide greater flexibility for families.

A form will be created and available on the website where families can request to move between learning models. Allow up to five working days for the request to be approved.



# TIMELINE

School is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 17, 2020, and the District will follow the current approved calendar.



# AISD.NET/REGISTER

questions? [PIO@AISD.NET](mailto:PIO@AISD.NET)



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