



**The Austin Independent School District**  
**An Overview of Reopening Plans**  
**for the 2020-21 School Year**

# REOPENING AUSTIN ISD SY 2020-21

## Introduction

With the start of the school year being only two months away, Austin ISD has been busy planning for what the return to school will look like and feel like for our students, staff, and families. Ensuring the health and safety of our school community continues to be our priority as we plan for the 2020-21 school year. With this in mind, Austin ISD's Reopen Task Force is reviewing possible structures for the reopening of schools. Our work is informed not only by guidance from federal, state and local entities, but also by the many students, parents and community members that have engaged in this process through participating in the task force, sharing their thoughts during a conversation circle, and using the Let's Talk platform.

***We are committed to ensuring health and safety for all so that we do not contribute to the number of new COVID-19 cases.***

As we plan, we are committed to our guiding principles:

- **Maintain the health, wellness, and safety of the entire school community**
  - Flexibility for our most at-risk students, staff, and families
  - Compliance with social distancing recommendations and PPE as required
  - Preparedness for responding to local, state, and federal orders
- Commit to developing equitable and innovative re-opening approaches that meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all students
- Support all staff to adapt and respond to the instructional and operational needs of all stakeholders
- Secure a strong financial and operational future
- Sustain open communication with the Austin ISD community

## Academic Calendar

We will begin the school year on August 18, 2020 as is shown on our board-approved district [calendar](#) for the 2020-21 school year. We currently have no plans to alter breaks or extend the year. If we need to suspend classes due to health and safety conditions, teaching and learning will continue online. For the most updated information, please refer to our [COVID-19](#) webpage. We are looking forward to welcoming students and families on the first day of school!

# Teaching & Learning

Austin ISD will ensure that we are ready to smoothly transition between on-campus teaching and learning, at-home teaching and learning, and a combination of the two, as our local COVID-19 conditions change. To keep students and staff safe while at school, social distancing measures will be put in place. This may include having fewer numbers of students on campus each day and asking students and staff to wear a facial covering.

We are committed to ensuring that all students receive the support and services that they need. We understand the importance of choice for families, so families will be able to choose how their children will learn next year, including the option of 100% at-home distance learning. No matter what your family chooses, there is a place for every student in Austin ISD. We will offer robust and engaging instruction in a variety of ways. Below are the three potential instructional models we are working on at this time:

## **On-Campus Face-to-Face Teaching and Learning**

On-campus face-to-face learning occurs when the teacher and the student meet physically in a classroom for a set time for whole-group lessons, small-group lessons, guided practice, and independent practice with social distancing and health and safety measures in place.

## **At-Home Distance Teaching and Learning**

Distance learning occurs when the learner and teacher are separated by distance and either meet online at an agreed upon time (synchronous), or the student receives instructions for learning and completes their assignments at their own pace (asynchronous). The teacher and student do not meet in a traditional physical classroom setting.

## **Hybrid Teaching and Learning**

Hybrid learning occurs both in the classroom and through distance learning. It is a combination of on-campus and at-home teaching and learning.

Please know that these models will be adjusted as we continue to receive guidance from federal, state, and local governing bodies and feedback from our staff and parents.

# Sample Schedules

Being mindful of each instructional model, the recent [TEA guidance for remote learning](#) and the [Governor’s intent to return to in-person instruction](#) in the fall, Austin ISD has developed draft sample schedules for elementary, middle, and high school. These schedules are being provided as general samples. They will be adjusted as needed by campuses. You will receive your child's schedule from your assigned school at the beginning of the school year.

Helpful Definitions	
<b>Synchronous Instruction</b>	Requires students and teacher to be present at the same time online  Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live interactive classes with students and teachers participating in real time</li> <li>• Teacher-supported work time on video conference calls</li> <li>• Scheduled and online tests</li> </ul>
<b>Asynchronous Instruction</b>	Does not require students and teacher to be present online at the same time  Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-paced online courses with intermittent teacher instruction</li> <li>• Pre-assigned work with formative assessments on paper or in learning system such as BLEND or Seesaw</li> <li>• Pre-recorded videos of instruction</li> </ul>

## Sample PK Weekly Schedule for an On-Campus School Day **WORKING DRAFT**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>7:30-8:00</b>	Welcome & Breakfast in the Classroom	Welcome & Breakfast in the Classroom	Welcome & Breakfast in the Classroom	Welcome & Breakfast in the Classroom	Welcome & Breakfast in the Classroom
<b>Language Arts and Social Studies/Science, Math Integration throughout the day. Circle Time allows for integrated lessons in Emergent Literacy, Math, Social Studies, Science, SEL, and Health. Centers are prepared to align with overarching themes/units.</b>					
<b>8:00-10:30</b>	Circle Time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle Time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle Time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle Time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle Time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>11:00-11:45</b>	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness
<b>11:45-12:30</b>	Rest or break time	Rest or break time	Rest or break time	Rest or break time	Rest or break time
<b>12:30-1:45</b>	Circle time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction	Circle time, Centers, and Small Group Instruction
<b>1:45-2:30</b>	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess

2:30-2:45	Circle Time	Circle Time	Circle Time	Circle Time	Circle Time
2:45-2:57	End of Day Routines	End of Day Routines	End of Day Routines	End of Day Routines	End of Day Routines
2:57-3:30	<b>Teacher and Staff Meeting Times and Office Hours</b>				

**Sample PK Weekly Schedule for a 100% At-Home Remote Asynchronous School Day**  
**WORKING DRAFT**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:00	Prepare for the Day	Prepare for the Day	Prepare for the Day	Prepare for the Day	Prepare for the Day
8:00-8:15	Morning Check In Student watches or hears "Message from Teacher"				
Language Arts and Social Studies/Science, Math Integration throughout the day. Circle Time allows for integrated lessons in Emergent Literacy, Math, Social Studies, Science, SEL, and Health. Centers are prepared to align with overarching themes/units. Asynchronous lessons will reflect the integrated content areas and support oral language development and emergent literacy and math skills.					
8:15-8:30	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud
8:30-9:30	Centers	Centers	Centers	Centers	Centers
9:30-10:00	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness	Workout for Wellness
10:00-10:30	Circle Activity	Circle Activity	Circle Activity	Circle Activity	Circle Activity
10:30-11:00	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud
11:00-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00-12:45	Rest or break time	Rest or break time	Rest or break time	Rest or break time	Rest or break time
<b>Afternoon Circle</b>					
12:45-1:00	Circle/Read Aloud	Circle/Read Aloud	Circle/Read Aloud	Circle/Read Aloud	Circle/Read Aloud
1:00-1:45	Centers	Centers	Centers	Centers	Centers
1:45-2:15	Complete lessons (Math, Literacy, Writing, Sci. or SS)	Complete lessons (Math, Literacy, Writing, Sci. or SS)	Complete lessons (Math, Literacy, Writing, Sci. or SS)	Complete lessons (Math, Literacy, Writing, Sci. or SS)	Complete lessons (Math, Literacy, Writing, Sci. or SS)
2:15-2:45	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
2:45-2:57	Good-Bye Circle	Good-Bye Circle	Good-Bye Circle	Good-Bye Circle	Good-Bye Circle
2:57-3:30	<b>Teacher and Staff Meeting Times and Office Hours</b>				

Blue = Synchronous Learning with the Teacher    Green = Asynchronous Learning

**Sample Elementary Weekly Schedule for an On-Campus School Day**  
**WORKING DRAFT**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-7:45	Breakfast in the Classroom	Breakfast in the Classroom	Breakfast in the Classroom	Breakfast in the Classroom	Breakfast in the Classroom
7:45-7:55	Morning Message, Community Circle, SEL Focus of the Week				
7:55-9:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
9:30-10:00	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
10:00-10:45	<b>Special Areas: Art, Music, Physical Education Daily Rotation</b>				
10:45-12:15	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
12:15-12:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:45-1:15	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
1:15-1:45	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
1:45-2:40	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
2:40-2:57	Journal Reflection and Dismissal	Journal Reflection and Dismissal	Journal Reflection and Dismissal	Journal Reflection and Dismissal	Journal Reflection and Dismissal
2:57-3:30	<b>Teacher and Staff Meeting Times and Office Hours</b>				

**Sample Elementary Weekly Schedule for a 100% At-Home Remote Synchronous School Day**  
**WORKING DRAFT**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:00	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day
8:00-8:15	Synchronous Morning Message and SEL Focus of the Week				
8:15-9:15	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
9:15-9:45	Special Areas: Art, Music, Physical Education, Workout for Wellness Daily Rotation				
9:45-11:00	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:00-11:30	Social Studies Asynchronous Learning (Pre-recorded Lesson and/or Independent Activity)				
11:30-12:00	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
12:00-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-2:15	One-on-one and small-group instruction language arts and math; Progress monitoring; Reviewing student work and providing feedback				
(30 min. in afternoon)	Flexible Independent Practice Reading, Math, Science				
2:15-3:00	Teacher Planning				
3:00-3:30	Teacher and Staff Meeting Time/Office Hours				

Blue = Synchronous Instruction with the Teacher    Green = Asynchronous Instruction

**Sample Secondary A/B Block Weekly Schedule for an On-Campus School Day**  
**WORKING DRAFT**

Time*	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45 – 8:30 Arrival & BREAKFAST IN the CLASSROOM (BIC)					
On Campus					
8:30-10:00	Period 1	Period 5	Period 1	Period 5	M/W "A" Day T/TH "B" Day Friday – Rotating A/B Day
10:05-11:35	Period 2	Period 6	Period 2	Period 6	
11:35-12:35	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:40-2:10	Period 3	Period 7	Period 3	Period 7	
2:15-3:45	Period 4	Period 8	Period 4	Period 8	

\*Time will vary for Middle School and High School

**Sample Secondary Weekly Schedule for a 100% At-Home Remote Synchronous School Day**  
**WORKING DRAFT**

Time*	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
At Home					
8:30-8:45	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	M/W "A" Day T/TH "B" Day Friday – Rotating A/B Day
8:55-10:20	Period 1	Period 5	Period 1	Period 5	
	Period 1	Period 5	Period 1	Period 5	
10:25-11:55	Period 2	Period 6	Period 2	Period 6	
	Period 2	Period 6	Period 2	Period 6	
11:55-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30-2:00	Period 3	Period 7	Period 3	Period 7	
	Period 3	Period 7	Period 3	Period 7	
2:05-3:25	Period 4	Period 8	Period 4	Period 8	
	Period 4	Period 8	Period 4	Period 8	

\* Time will vary for Middle School and High School; Each period will include both synchronous and asynchronous instruction

Blue = Synchronous Instruction with the Teacher    Green = Asynchronous Instruction

## Physical Environment - Safety Protocols

Austin ISD is working to ensure we maintain the health, wellness, and safety of the entire school community. Our operations team is working with campus and district leaders to make certain that compliance with social distancing recommendations, PPE, and campus safety is aligned, and we are prepared to respond to local, state and federal orders. Each campus will:

- Provide each classroom with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Ensure all campuses have allotment of PPE and cleaning material on site each week
- Train all Austin ISD employees to follow health safety protocols

- Provide all campuses with no-touch thermometers
- Implement daily health screenings for all students prior to entering campus
- Implement a system to signify students who have had their daily health screening
- Modify daily cleaning schedules to ensure each space is sanitized and disinfected multiple times a day; and deep cleaning of campuses once a week

## Health & Safety Protocols

Austin ISD continues to focus on the health and safety of our school community. We are designing health and safety protocols to minimize the exposure and spread of COVID-19 to students and staff, such as managing student and staff arrivals at school, maintaining safe social distancing, and increasing other healthy habits while in school buildings. All Austin ISD campuses and facilities will:

- Conduct temperature checks and health screenings upon arrival for each student and staff member
- Provide hand sanitizer stations at campuses
- Arrange classrooms to ensure 6-foot social distancing between student desks
- Provide a facial covering to students (older than 6 years of age), staff, service providers, and approved visitors at health screening locations if they do not have one
- Place tape markings demonstrating 6-foot social distancing in all common areas and walkways
- Disinfect commonly used surfaces and areas frequently
- Promote frequent 20-second hand washing practices among staff and students
- Remove soft furnishings, soft toys, and toys that are hard to disinfect
- Identify isolation space for students who do not pass arrival screenings and/or become ill with COVID-19-related symptoms and must wait for parent pick up
- Require students and staff to stay home if they, or anyone in their household, have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or are showing any symptoms

## Transportation

Austin ISD's transportation scheduling team will collaborate with campuses to determine family transportation needs and coordinate bus routes based on route capacity and needed accommodations. Safety remains at the forefront of this effort. Bus procedures will:

- Follow CDC guidance and recommendations
- Practice Austin ISD's Protocol/Precautions for COVID-19
- Implement six feet of social distancing seating assignments
- Provide hand sanitizer stations on buses



- Implement procedures for health check of employees
- Require that bus drivers always wear a facial covering while operating a school bus
- Load the students starting at the rear of the bus, and unload starting from the front of the bus
- Enforce one student per seat every other row, sitting by the window
- Designate non-use seats by placing red tape on every other bus seat
- Allow only eligible students to ride their assigned buses due to capacity
- Require students 6 years and older to wear a facial covering
- Avoid standing or sitting within 6 feet of the bus driver
- Keep windows open at all times or as much as possible

## Meal Service

In line with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommendations to ensure safety for students and staff, breakfast and lunch will be offered in the classroom at all Austin ISD schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Protocols for safe and sanitary meal service will be put in place at all schools. These protocols include:

- Require food service staff to have their temperature checked and go through a health screening each day
- Require food services staff to wear facial coverings and gloves during all food preparation and service
- Ensure teachers and staff assisting with meal distribution in the classroom wear facial coverings and gloves
- Deliver breakfast and pre-packed lunches in coolers outside of the classroom to avoid additional staff entering the classroom space
- Implement hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds by students and staff before and after meal service (hand sanitizer may be used when soap and water is not available)
- Sanitize the food serving table prior to, during, and after each meal service
- Maintain 6-ft social distance between staff and students during meal service
- Do not allow sharing of desks/tables or food
- Do not allow saving of perishable food items for consumption at a later time

Pending approval from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Austin ISD plans to send meals home with students for the days they are not on campus and run curbside at some locations for students who remain 100% virtual, if needed.

## Communication

Throughout this process, hearing from multiple viewpoints has been a priority and sustaining open communication with the Austin ISD community is one of our guiding principles. We have held numerous Conversation Circles with students, parents, and staff to hear directly from our community and provided these engagements in multiple languages to ensure we are reaching all members of our community. In addition, we have sent surveys to students, families, and staff and will continue to do this throughout the summer. We recognize as we learn more about COVID-19 and our guidelines from local, state and federal agencies change, so may your plans for the 2020-2021 school year.

We included parents, staff, and community members in our Advisory Group who reviewed our plans and provided feedback. Community members included doctors, nurses, and AISD partners.

Currently we are collaborating with the UT Austin COVID-19 Modeling Consortium. This team supports our community by providing decision-support analysis to protect the health and well-being of our community.

Our [Let's Talk](#) platform continues to be available to receive your questions and feedback. Families can also send a Let's Talk! Text to (512) 886-6434 or call the Family Support line at (512) 414-9187. Support is available Monday - Thursday from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm. Finally, we are sending out weekly [Summer Vision 2020](#) newsletters to keep our community informed on our plans. Again, thank you for your participation and flexibility during our COVID-19 environment. As the virus and guidelines change, we will adjust to keep our community safe. For the most updated information, please refer to our [COVID-19](#) webpage.