Back to School
Phase 1 Guidance
September 21, 2020
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INTRODUCTION

As we approach our exciting first step towards person to person instruction in a school classroom, we want to make sure you are with us every step of the way.

This document contains Phase 1 protocols that South San ISD will follow to ensure that your child will return to the safest environment possible during these pandemic times. The protocols will not only articulate our plan and who will be included in this phase, it will provide visuals as to how classrooms will look.

Keep in mind that our district will continuously monitor all science and statistics during this time and will not hesitate to change course if necessary. We want your children to continue to flourish in the education arena; be it in school or at home.

As we enter Phase 1, we are already working hard at finalizing the Phase 2 protocols for additional in person instruction and will share that information with you once science places us in that category.

We have enclosed plans as to how to continue with remote learning should you opt to learn from home. Please address all questions about Phase 1 to your child’s principal or teacher. They are ready to make sure this transition is a smooth one for everyone.

COMMITMENT STATEMENTS

The District is committed to:

- Creating a safe and healthy environment for all students providing a high-quality instructional program for all students
- Ensuring all students are served—Academically, Socially, and Emotionally
- Communicating effectively and consistently with staff, students, families, and the community
- Engaging stakeholders in the decision-making processes
CHOICES IN LEARNING

The South San Antonio ISD Instructional Framework is vertically aligned Pre-K through 12th grade with the following components: social emotional learning (SEL) to support student wellness, an opportunity/flexible block to differentiate instruction for target groups, and office hours to provide student and parent access to teachers.

The Path Forward

We will offer our families a choice in how their child will receive instruction:

- 100% in -person instruction phased in strategically to adhere to safety and public health
- 100% enrollment in virtual learning where students will participate in live and self-paced instruction

Students attending in-person will continue to participate in a blend of technology and face-to-face instruction, which will continue until school resumes at 100% in-person instruction.

As students begin to phase in, this blended model will allow for equity whether students are at school or at home. This schedule also provides continuity for students, parents and teachers.

Regardless of the choice parents make, instruction and interventions will continue to be targeted to address any backslides in student learning as a result of the abrupt transition to virtual learning in the Spring.

Your child’s teacher will provide more specific information on instructional arrangements and daily schedule.

Parent Commitment

Parents will be asked to make commitment by Friday, September 25, 2020 to select in-person or virtual instruction. Parents will have the opportunity to request a change in placement prior to the end of each 9-week grading period.
Phase 1: October 5-16

25% of the student body will be selected to return for Phase 1--populations included are:

- Students who are children of staff members
- Students with grade concerns
- Students with connectivity challenges
- Students with attendance issues
- Students in special programs
  - Specialized Units
  - 504 and Dyslexia
  - Bilingual/Dual Language/ESL
  - Special Education

Safety Materials

All campuses will be provided these materials to ensure the safety of students and staff.

- Social Distancing and Safety Protocols
  - Signage
  - Floor Decals
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs)
  - Face Masks
  - Face Shields
- Sanitizing Equipment
  - Electrostatic Sprayer
  - Hand Sanitizing Stations
- Additional Safety Materials
  - Safety Dividers/Portable Barriers
  - Non-touch thermometers
Health Screenings & Suspected/Lab-Confirmed Cases

The district will monitor Metro Health updates and make necessary changes to the screening process.

- Parents are asked to self screen their children at home each morning to ensure students are not displaying symptoms and then confirm this each day on Skyward before sending them to the campus.
- Each campus will have an isolation room for any students displaying COVID-19 symptoms. These rooms are separate from the nurse’s office and will have an adult present at all times until these students are picked up by a designated parent or family member.
- If a student has a lab-confirmed case then he/she will be converted to an online learning format for the duration of 10 days. In order to return to school, the student will need to stay out for the full 10 days, be symptom free, and must be fever-free for at least 24 hours before the day he/she returns.

District Safety Practices

- Masks will be required at all times from staff and students.
- Students in Pre-K - 2nd grade classrooms and specialized units will be equipped with safety dividers.
- Face shields will be provided for students in third grade and up.
- Adherence to hand-washing and use of hand sanitizing pumps.

Physical Social Distancing

- The classrooms will be set to have a 6 ft. distance between student desks when feasible.
- However, in the rooms where the furniture does not allow this (e.g. use of tables, as more students are brought in, etc . . . ) safety dividers will be placed as added barriers to ensure students' safety.
- Common areas protocols will be implemented to assert social distancing: hallways, cafeteria, computer labs, gyms, and passing periods.
Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Additional sanitizing measures will be taken to ensure the safety of all students and staff which include:

- Daily after hours cleaning crews on campuses.
- Scheduled restroom cleaning throughout the day.
- Daily disinfecting between lunch periods with electrostatic sprayers.

Transportation

The District will maintain safety practices while students are in transport to and from school:

- Students must wear a mask at all times while on the bus.
- Students must use hand sanitizer prior to boarding the bus.
- Selected windows on the bus will be slightly opened 4 inches on every run to promote adequate circulation on the bus.
- Students must remain seated and facing the front of the bus at all times while the bus is in motion.
- Students must maintain 6 ft. of social distancing while loading on the bus.
- Students will be loaded on bus one student at a time from back to front and must sit as close to a window as possible.
- Students must remain seated until bus comes to a complete stop and will be unloaded from front to back.
- Bus will be cleaned and sanitized after students are dropped off at their campuses.
- Buses will undergo a complete electrostatic disinfection after morning routes are completed as well as the end of the day.
Breakfast & Lunch at Elementary Schools

Social distancing measures will be in effect in dining rooms district-wide.

- Breakfast for elementary students will be served Grab-n-Go style through the serving line.
- Campus administration will determine where students eat meals (cafeteria, classroom, Library, outside courtyards, other areas identified by school).
- Lunch for elementary students will be served through the serving line.
- Campus Administration will determine where students eat meals (cafeteria, classroom, Library, outside courtyards, other areas identified by school).

Students receiving instruction through our remote program have the option to pick up their meals curbside at the designated service time.

Breakfast & Lunch at Secondary Schools

Social distancing measures will be in effect in dining rooms district-wide.

- Secondary students will receive meals in the cafeteria and practice social distancing guidelines.
- Each campus administration will determine where students eat meals (cafeteria, classroom, Library, outside courtyards, other areas identified by school).

Students receiving instruction through our remote program have the option to pick up their meals curbside at the designated service time.

Phase 2: October 19-30

The next 25% of the student body will be selected to return for Phase 2. Selected families will receive more information in the coming weeks.