



COAHOMA ISD 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

Coahoma ISD is excited to welcome everyone back in August. Guidance from TEA will be followed by Coahoma ISD as we plan for and implement the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. Please check the document often for updates.

The district is working to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all. See below for current information regarding plans for reopening schools. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these new circumstances.

TEA Guidance used to develop the CISD plan can be found at:

[SY 20-21 Attendance and Enrollment FAQ](#)

[SY 20-21 Public Health Guidance](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the CISD Administration Office or your appropriate Campus Principal.

****Please note that details are subject to change based on guidelines from local, state, and federal authorities.**

KEY DETAILS

Coahoma ISD plans to reopen to provide face-to-face instruction beginning on August 13th, 2020. Virtual learning options will also be available. ***Virtual learning will not be the same type of virtual instruction provided during the Spring School Closure. The requirements for virtual learning are significantly more demanding on student's daily participation and completion of work at home, as compared to this past spring.***

School Year Calendar and Scheduled School Start Time

- [See the CISD 2020-2021 Calendar page \(PDF opens in a new window\) for details](#)
- School Hours for CISD: 7:40 - 3:40

Learning Options

Coahoma ISD families will select from two options for their children.

- **Option 1:** Full-Time in-person on campuses, with heightened hygiene and disinfection protocols.
- **Option 2:** Full-Time virtual learning with district-provided device or personal device.

Guidelines for 2020-2021 School Year

Registration:

All students will need to register for the 2020-2021 school year. All parents will be required to register their child for either virtual or in person on campus via an online form. Elementary students may register beginning on July 27th from 9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. and Secondary students new to the district may register on August 3rd and 4th from 9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. Returning secondary students can register on August 5th and 6th from 9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. Parents will be asked to make a firm commitment to virtual school in order for CISD to prepare accordingly.

Virtual Learning Considerations

Virtual school is a fluid option that can be accessed at any time. However, once the virtual option is chosen the student must remain with that option until the end of the nine week grading period. Parents must inform the campus of the student's return to

in-person attendance by the deadlines listed below. The form can be obtained from your campus.

Changing options frequently may have a negative impact on a student's ability to receive credit for the course as well as their academic success.

Once parents select an instructional model, the student will remain in that setting until the end of the nine-week grading period. Campus principals may have final discretion on student placement.

NINE WEEK GRADING PERIOD	NOTIFICATION DEADLINE
FIRST	OCTOBER 16TH
SECOND	DECEMBER 17TH
THIRD	MARCH 5TH
SUMMER (If Applicable)	MAY 20TH

Extracurricular Considerations

Students choosing on-line learning option will only be allowed in the building housing their extracurricular activities or certain CTE courses during designated times. Students failing to abide by the rules set forth will get one warning before being dismissed from the program or be moved to the face to face learning option. **Campus principals may have final discretion on student placement.**

- All UIL activities
 - Athletics including Cheerleading
 - Band
 - FFA
 - UIL Academics
 - FCCLA
 - One Act Play

Technology

The district will use electronic devices for all students. Information concerning technology use fees and distribution will be provided to parents by CISD.

Instructional Efforts Underway for the New School Year

- Developing instructional models that support both in-person and virtual learning.
- Providing a device for all students choosing the online format.

Health / Safety Efforts Underway for the New School Year

- Monitoring the potential impact of COVID-19 in Howard County and following guidance provided by local health organizations.
 - Hand sanitizer stations located at all facility entrances.
 - Hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray available for all classrooms.
 - Students, Staff, and Visitors will be expected to utilize the district's self-care questionnaire.
 - Face coverings are mandated *at this time* by the Governor's order ([Executive Order GA 29](#)) for grades 5 and above.
 - Social distancing (6 feet or 2 arm lengths) enforced when possible.
 - Handwashing and/or hand sanitizing required frequently throughout the day.
- Proper self-care habits will be taught.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. What precautions will be in place on campus?

We will implement increased signage around campuses promoting disease mitigation strategies, increased cleaning and sanitation practices, as well as frequent reminders of hand hygiene and social distancing. CISD will comply with all health and safety mandates established by the health department and Texas Education Agency. Classrooms will be arranged to maximize space between students.

We encourage students and staff to provide their own PPE.

2. Will students and staff be required to wear masks?

Face coverings are mandated *at this time* by the Governor's order ([Executive Order GA 29](#)) for grades 5 and above. Face Coverings must be school appropriate. Masks or Face Shields will be permitted.

3. Will CDC social distancing guidelines be observed?

All areas of the district will be monitored frequently to encourage social distancing. Social Distancing will be observed as much as possible, but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 feet apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained, such as class change times, lunch, etc. students will be required to wear face coverings per Executive Order GA 29.

Signage reminding students and staff about handwashing, social distancing, and infection prevention will be posted throughout the school and in areas mentioned above.

4. What happens if a student or a teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire classroom have to quarantine and enroll in virtual school? What if multiple classrooms and students/staff are impacted?

When notification of a possible exposure occurs, CISD, in accordance with local health authorities, will begin contact tracing and complete a thorough risk assessment.

5. Will visitors be allowed on campus?

Visitors will be allowed on campus on a very limited basis using the guidelines below:

- All visitors must have a scheduled appointment.
- All visitors required to wear a mask.
- All visitors must utilize hand sanitizing stations upon entry.
- Parents will be required to drop off students at designated locations.
- Students may bring lunch, but no drop off or delivery of lunch allowed.
- No visitors will be allowed to eat with students.
- Students will not be allowed to leave campus for lunch.
- Until further notice classroom parties will not be allowed.

6. What is considered Close Contact?

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as: a. Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (eg., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or b. Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield; if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or , in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Parent Student Related

- 1. What if most families choose the in-person option? Would there have to be changes to accommodate social distancing or will there be a limit of how many students can select the in-person option?**

We will continue to work closely with TEA and local health authorities to ensure the safety of our students. We believe we will be able to provide instruction to students in

whichever format their families choose. Keep in mind, CISD will comply with all mandates regarding social/physical distancing as well as health and hygiene protocols.

2. Will we have open house, assemblies, or concerts?

At this time, large events will occur in a virtual setting or in small in-person gatherings that comply with CDC guidelines.

3. Will buses run?

Yes, transportation will continue for eligible regular bus route students. State guidelines for masks will be enforced. CISD does encourage parents to transport their children to and from school.

4. Will social distancing be observed on buses, and how will seating arrangements be determined?

We cannot guarantee 6 foot social distancing on our district transportation. Students will be instructed with specific safety protocols. The bus driver and students will use hand sanitizer that will be provided. School buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily.

5. What precautions will be in place for athletics, fine arts, and other extracurricular activities?

Safety guidelines have been developed for conduction workouts, rehearsals, and practices. The district will continue to follow all mandated guidelines provided by UIL, TEA, and the state.

6. Will students have recess or the ability to play and socialize with other students?

We are awaiting guidance from the Texas Education Agency on recess activities. However, we anticipate elementary students will have recess time with restrictions that reinforce social distancing.

7. Will students remain enrolled at their school if they choose virtual school?

Yes, students will remain enrolled in CISD.

8. Will meals be provided for students who select virtual school?

Options are being explored for providing meals to qualified students who select virtual school. There are currently no state or federal regulations that allow districts to serve meals to students who are not present on campus, although guidelines are expected in the near future.

9. Are immunizations required for virtual school?

Yes. At this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements for students.

10. How will virtual school be different from at-home learning during the closure last spring?

Students who select virtual school will be required to attend and participate in class daily, and instruction will be led by a teacher. In the spring last year, students' assignments were limited. Virtual school this year will be a full course load of instruction and assignments that is equivalent to what students who are attending school in-person will be required to complete. It will be the responsibility of the parent and student to ensure virtual learning meets the same expectations as in-person learning which includes completion of all assignments, daily communication with teacher and daily time commitment. Teachers delivering virtual instruction will receive additional training and support in digital teaching strategies and using online curriculum. Both in-person and virtual learning will utilize the same grading system. Students being served through a special program, virtual instruction will affect accommodations and services provided.

11. Who will be required to take State assessments?

Students participating in both in-person and virtual learning will be required to participate in state (STAAR/EOC/TELPAS, etc.) testing.

12. Will packets be available for instruction if we do not have access to a device or internet?

No, packets will not be considered instruction as we move into the 2020-2021 school year.

13. Can a student be counted absent from virtual learning?

Yes. In the virtual learning instructional method, student engagement is measured daily, and attendance is assigned based on the student's completion of that day's engagement measure. Students who do not complete the daily measure of engagement are to be counted absent for that day, and that absence cannot be changed to present if the student completes the engagement measure on a later date.

14. Under the virtual learning instructional method, if a student decides to complete the entire week's worth of work on Monday, can the student's attendance be coded to show perfect attendance for the week?

No. In the virtual learning method, student engagement is measured daily, and attendance is assigned based on the student's completion of that day's engagement measure. Students who do not complete the daily measure of engagement are to be counted absent for that day, and that absence cannot be changed to present if the student completes the engagement measure on a later date. In the example above, the student would be counted absent Tuesday - Friday.

15. Will the 90% minimum student attendance for class credit rule be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes. The minimum attendance for class credit rule of TEC, §25.092, will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year, and TEA will not be issuing waivers for LEAs to exempt themselves from the rule. Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes (with some exceptions) to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement.

16. Will truancy laws be in effect during the 2020-2021 school year for students receiving remote instruction due to COVID-19 related closure or health concerns?

Truancy laws will apply to students who fail to attend school either in-person or virtually.

Staff Related

1. Will teachers get to choose if they want a virtual or in-person schedule?

Staffing decisions will be determined based on student choice of instructional delivery. Principals, in cooperation with teachers, develop work assignments. If a teacher has safety concerns about returning to work on site they should contact their principal. At this time, all staff will report to their applicable CISD facility to promote instruction for all students.

2. What will staff do if they have to quarantine due to COVID-19? Will the district provide extra sick or personal days for staff?

Requirements to quarantine are determined by the health department. In addition to existing leave balances in effect for employees, Coahoma ISD will follow all provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which is in effect through December 31st, 2020.

3. As a staff member can I go to other campuses?

All guidelines listed above are in effect unless you are visiting a campus for school related business. For example, visiting the district nurse is allowed.