

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

FAQ Document

Guidance from TEA will be followed by Dalhart ISD as we plan for and implement the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. This guidance changes often, and we will seek to provide updated information as we get it. Please check this document often for updates.

A survey will soon be provided on our website. Please complete the survey as soon as you are able. This will help us make plans for next school year.

If you have any questions, please email your question to: Covid19@Dalhartisd.org The district will respond via email, or by phone if you provide a phone number.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these new unprecedented circumstances.

1. How will Dalhart ISD reopen school this fall for the 2020-2021 school year?

Dalhart ISD plans to reopen to provide face-to-face instruction beginning on August 19, 2020 abiding by Governor Abbott's regulations and TEA guidelines. Remote options will also be available. **This will not be the same type of remote instruction provided during the Spring 2019 School Closure.** Please see #4 below.

2. What additional safety measures will the district have in place in response to COVID-19?

The district plans to:

- Increase cleaning in all school areas
- Regularly sanitize classrooms, buses, gyms, bathrooms, and other public areas throughout the school day as well as during regular cleaning
- Provide hand liquid sanitizer, as needed

3. Will my child be required to wear a mask or facial shield at school?

Yes, as of July 2, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a statewide mask mandate. Schools are required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. There is an exception for children who are younger than 10 years old. However, this regulation may change as we get closer to the August 19th start date.

4. What if I, as the parent or guardian, do not wish my child to receive face-to-face instruction this year because of my concerns regarding COVID-19?

Parents will have some choices. As we develop these, we will update this document. As of now, the plans are:

- A. **Face-Face instruction** as provided normally, following state and TEA Guidelines
- B. **Remote Synchronous Instruction** for grades 3-12
 - a. Two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. In this method, the required amount of instructional time is scheduled each day. The instruction is provided through a computer or other electronic device or over the phone. Instruction will address the required curriculum per TEC 28.002.
 - b. Attendance daily will be required:
 - i. Grades 3-5 180 minutes per day (not necessarily consecutive minutes)
 - ii. Grades 6-12 240 minutes per day (not necessarily consecutive minutes)
- C. **Remote Asynchronous Instruction** for grades PK-2 and as necessary for grades 3-12.

- a. Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real-time. This may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons, or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. The instructional method will address the required curriculum, per TEC 28.002.

5. 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. We will communicate more about the lack of internet access at a later date. Please make sure your campus principal is aware if there is a lack of internet access at your home.

6. Will at-home parent instruction count towards our instructional minute requirements as part of the remote synchronous instruction method?

No, at-home, parent-led instructional time will not count towards overall minute requirements under the remote synchronous instruction method. Under the remote synchronous instruction method, two-way, real-time, face-to-face, or virtual remote interaction between teachers and students is required to meet the instructional minute requirements. This may also include student-to-student sessions if supervised by a teacher who is facilitating the session live.

7. Under the remote asynchronous instructional method, if a student fails to complete Monday's measure of engagement on Monday but completes the assignment later in the week, can the student's attendance coding be changed to remote asynchronous present for Monday?

No. In the remote asynchronous 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 remote asynchronous present if the student completes the engagement measure on a later date. In the example above, the student would be counted absent on Monday.

8. Under the remote asynchronous 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 remote asynchronous 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 remote asynchronous present if the student completes the engagement measure on a later date. In the example above, the student would be counted absent Tuesday-Friday

9. Will the 90/10 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.

10. 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, but remote attendance satisfies attendance requirements.