

Texline ISD

2020 – 2021 Opening Information and Frequently Asked Questions

From Mr. Jones, Superintendent: July 9, 2020

Reopening our school this fall has been a moving target. Two times per week the Commissioner of Education and Texas Education Agency (TEA) host an informational Zoom meeting. We discuss reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. Last week TISD placed a survey on our website. We had great feedback and I appreciate your responses. It has given us a good idea of what your concerns are. Having read your survey responses, and taking into account the TEA guidelines, here are a few commonly asked questions and responses to keep you informed.

NOTE: This information may change with short notice. I will post all new changes as soon as possible. Please check this web document often for updates.

ALSO: Going forward, I will have another survey with more specific questions.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we go forward. Together we will win.

Frequently Asked Questions [FAQ]

1. How will Texline ISD reopen for the 2020-2021 school year?

- A. Texline ISD plans to reopen and provide direct (in school) instruction beginning on August 18, 2020. Remote options will be available; see #2.

2. What if the parent, guardian or adult student chooses not to receive face-to-face instruction this year because of concerns regarding COVID-19?

- A. There are two choices:
 - i. Synchronous Instruction: Face-Face instruction as provided normally, following TEA Guidelines
 - ii. Asynchronous Instruction: 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 live video of instruction and prerecorded video lessons, or tech-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.
 - iii. NOTE: students interested in extra-curricular activities must attend in person. Off campus instruction is not an option for them.

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

- A. The district plans to:
 - i. Increase cleaning regimen in all school areas
 - ii. Regularly disinfect classrooms, buses, gyms, bathrooms, and other populated public areas throughout the school day as well as during regular cleaning
 - iii. Provide face masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves if requested by staff or students

- iv. Take measures daily before students, staff and visitors enter the buildings, and as students board the school bus

4. Will my child be required to wear a mask at school?

- A. Yes, based on Governor's Executive order #29 (Counties with 20 or more COVID-19 cases)
- B. No, if exceptions for EC #29 are met (Dallam/Hartley COVID-19 cases drop below 20)

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

- A. No, packets will not be considered instruction as we move into the 2020-2021 school year. The district is working on ways to increase WIFI access throughout the community. Chromebooks may be available for student check out.

6. What are the requirements for attendance?

- A. Minimum attendance for class credit 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 [TEC, §25.092] to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement. A day of attendance credit is equal to 240 minutes of instruction.

7. How is student daily attendance earned?

- A. Attending school on campus
- B. Home Learning, and
 - i. Participating in daily instruction from a teacher
 - ii. Contacting a teacher to gather instruction
 - iii. Completing and turning in assignments on expected days

8. 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?

- A. 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.

9. 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?

- A. 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

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?

- A. Truancy laws will apply to students who fail to attend school, but remote attendance satisfies attendance requirements (see #7).

11. Can students who chose asynchronous learning still participate in extracurricular activities (athletics, Ag, UIL academics, etc.) or CTE (wood-tech, home-ec, etc.) classes?

- A. No, if a parent/guardian or adult student chooses to stay home due to COVID-19 then they will not be allowed on campus to participate in an extracurricular or CTE class.

NOTE #1: As you can see, off campus instruction, especially asynchronous instruction, is problematic and there must be a compelling reason to choose it. Parents/guardians would need to meet with school administration before approval.

NOTE #2 (again): This information may change with short notice. I will post all new changes as soon as possible. Please check this web document often for updates.