

Buckholts ISD

Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

The Texas Education Agency recently announced the availability of \$11.2 billion in federal funding made available to school districts through ESSER III under the American Rescue Plan. This is a substantial sum of money, though amounts vary significantly from district to district. This page on our website will be used to communicate with our staff, parents, and community members about the ESSER III funds (ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief). These are federal funds sent to the states to help cover costs associated with learning loss due to COVID-19 and the cost of online instruction, facilities improvements, and the pandemic.

Buckholts ISD is proud to have offered the opportunity for in-person instruction for all students during the 2020-21 school year. Thanks to the support of our faculty, staff, students, and community, we developed this plan in the summer of 2020 and with full consideration of public comment and feedback. We have persevered throughout the year, despite the occasional setback, to keep students in school and to maintain open lines of communication with our entire school community. For the 2021-22 school year full in-person instruction will continue, along with expanded services, activities, and extracurricular programs. This statement is meant to satisfy the requirements for accepting additional funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

The top priorities of Buckholts ISD are the safety and academic success of all students.

SAFE RETURN GOALS 2021-2022

1. Follow the Center for Disease and Control and the Texas Education Agency guidelines to keep our students and staff safe.
2. Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated catch-up growth opportunities.
3. Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
4. Keep schools open all year without having to endure school closure.

All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.

Back to School 2021-2022

Entering into the 2021-2022 school year Buckholts ISD plans to continue the learning initiatives it had established and will provide new learning opportunities for our students.

Instructional Settings and Continuity of Services

- Buckholts ISD after careful review of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the distribution of vaccinations, has made the decision to open our Campus doors to all students for face-to-face learning for the 2021-2022
- For the 2021-22 school year full In-Person or Face to Face Instruction will continue. along with expanded services, activities, and extracurricular programs.
- Alternative instructional settings may be needed in response to extenuating circumstances. Buckholts ISD is awaiting further guidance from the Texas Education Agency regarding students who have a physician's verification documenting a specific medical need and whose children meet the criteria established for a remote learning program.
- Local community transmission and situational changes may justify asynchronous instruction at various times during the school year.

Assessing and Address the Impact of Learning Loss

- Use of screeners and/or benchmark assessments to help identify student strengths, learning gaps and disabilities
- Provide learning interventions that lead toward student progress and growth.
- A four-day instructional calendar model with Enrichment Monday's to address targeted intervention and enrichment for struggling learners.
- Instructional specialist to address reading and math needs

More Instructional Time to address the impact of Learning Loss

Buckholts ISD will offer additional learning opportunities that may include

- Enrichment Monday's
- During the day tutoring
- After school tutoring
- Saturday school
- Tutoring through partnerships
- Summer School
- Credit Recovery

Rigorous Instructional Materials and Teacher Supports

- Implementation of additional Career Tech Courses at the Secondary Level
- Implementation of the research driven reading RTI strategies at the Elementary/Secondary Level
- Implementation of research driven math RTI strategies at the Elementary/Secondary Level
- Texas Resource System's researched based curriculum
- A continuation of the Frog Street Curriculum for prekindergarten
- Increased use of technology in the classrooms
- Extracurricular Programs

Mental Health and Behavioral Supports

Buckholts ISD will continue to utilize various programming, resources, and partnerships that benefit the mental, social and emotional needs of the student.

- Offer in school counseling with at-risk counselor
- Partnership with Social Workers to provide outreach/services to students and families
- PBIS Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Continue with community partnerships to benefit the whole child
- Implement Youth Led Programming
- Establish Student Councils
- Ensure the continuity of Food Service programs

Facilities

- Continued development of specialized instructional spaces within buildings
- Addition of space as needed for the safety of staff and students
- Update as needed for improved technology use within the schools
- Building improvements as needed for the safety of staff and students

Proposed COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols

Face Coverings No Longer Required

- Face coverings will no longer be required for any student or staff member; however, masks may be worn by those who feel more comfortable doing so.
- Face mask will be available for distribution upon request.

COVID Immunizations Not Mandatory

- Buckholts ISD will continue to provide information to the community about COVID immunization opportunities as a courtesy for those who wish to access the vaccine. However, the COVID immunization will not be required for staff or students.

Hand Hygiene

- Buckholts ISD will continue to encourage good hand hygiene, such as reminding students to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, etc., and provide access to hand sanitizer stations.

Disinfection

- Touchpoints (i.e. doorknobs, light switches, etc.) will continue to be disinfected throughout all buildings on a daily basis.
- School buses will continue to be disinfected daily.
- Teachers and staff will continue to have access to disinfectant supplies to clean high-touch areas regularly if desired.

Quarantines Discontinued

- Quarantines of healthy/non-symptomatic students and staff will be discontinued.
- Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID, or show symptoms commonly associated with COVID, they will be asked to isolate for 10 days (unless they provide documentation of being fully vaccinated).
- The person in isolation may return if they receive a negative COVID test after day 5 of isolation.

Cafeterias & child nutrition

- Employees must adhere to Food Services Guidance
- Use disposable student food service items (e.g., utensils, trays).
- Ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.

Visitors in BISD Schools/Facilities Permitted

- In the 2021-2022 school year, visitors will be permitted in schools as they were pre-COVID.
- Schools keep a log of visitors and where they visited, for potential contact tracing purposes.
- Face coverings will not be required for visitors, however, they may wear one if they are more comfortable doing so.

Playgrounds and Recess

- Playground use is allowed with proper safeguards.
- Stagger groups using playgrounds and/or limit multiple group usage.
- Wash hands before and after recess.

Athletics and Activities Resume as Normal

- Athletics and activities will resume normal processes in 2021-2022 in partnership with governing bodies.

Field Trips Resume

- Field trips will resume in 2021-2022.