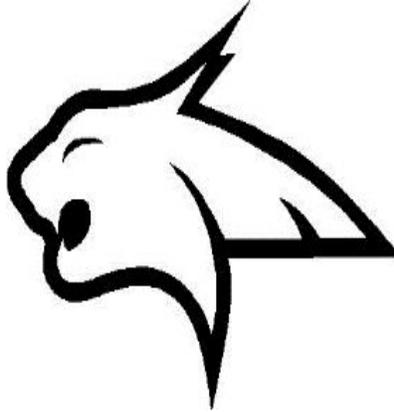


Bluff Dale ISD



2020/2021

Start-up Information

(July 27 Update)

Bluff Dale ISD is excited to welcome everyone back to school in August. Guidance from TEA will be followed by BDISD as we plan for and implement the reopening of school for the 2020/2021 school year.

BDISD is working to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for everyone. See below the 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 BDISD plan can be found at:

- [SY 20-21 Attendance and Enrollment FAQ](#)
- [SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance](#)

If you have any questions, please email your question to jtaylor@bdisd.net. The district will respond via email or calls only, not via social media.

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

Key Details

Bluff Dale ISD plans to reopen to provide in-person instruction beginning on August 11, 2020. A remote instruction option will also be available. Remote instruction will not be the same as was provided during the spring school closure. The requirements for remote instruction are significantly more demanding on students' daily participation and completion of work at home compared to this past spring.

School Year Calendar and Times

School calendar

- See the [BDISD 2020/2021 district calendar](#) for details.
- School hours:
 - 7:30 am – School opens, students may arrive.
 - 7:50 am – first bell
 - 7:55 am – tardy bell
 - 3:35 pm – school dismissed

Learning Options

Bluff Dale ISD families will select from two options for their children.

- Option 1: Full-time in-person on campus, with heightened hygiene and disinfection protocols
- Option 2: Full-time remote learning

Guidelines for 2020/2021 School Year

Registration

All students will default to “full time in-person” instruction. Forms will be available from July 27th to July 30th for parents to commit to remote instruction. This will allow our school to prepare accordingly.

Remote Instruction Considerations

Remote instruction is a fluid option that can be accessed at any time. However, once the remote option is chosen the student must remain with it until the end of that six-week grading period. The only exception to this is that we will allow parents to change from remote to in-person after the first three weeks of school. Parents must inform the campus of the student's return to in-person attendance by the deadlines listed below. The form to do so can be obtained from the school office.

Changing options frequently could negatively impact students' academic success as well as their ability to receive course credit.

- | ● Grading Period | Notification Deadline to return to on-campus instruction |
|------------------|--|
| ● Second | September 14, 2020 |
| ● Third | October 23, 2020 |
| ● Fourth | December 11, 2020 |
| ● Fifth | February 5, 2021 |
| ● Sixth | March 26, 2021 |

Extracurricular Considerations

Although UIL guidance allows students to participate in extracurricular activities in a remote format, through BDISD Board action, students who choose to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities, student activity groups and specific CTE courses must choose the in-person option. These include:

- All UIL activities
 - Athletics, including Cheerleading
- CTE courses
 - Welding
 - Ag Mechanics
 - Ag Structure Tech

With the situation changing often, sometimes quickly, it is difficult to maintain a “one size fits all” policy. Exceptions to the above extracurricular policy will be considered by the district office.

Instructional Efforts Underway for the New School Year

- We are developing instructional models that support both in-person and remote instruction.
- Health/Safety Efforts Underway for the New School Year.
- Monitoring the potential impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Erath county and following guidance provided by local health organizations as well as the State of Texas.
- Hand sanitizer stations located at all facility entrances.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray available for all classrooms.
- Students and staff will utilize the district's self-care questionnaire.
- At this time, face coverings are mandated by the Governor's order (Executive Order GA 29) for ages 10 and above. Students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear a mask or face shield. While it is preferred that students wear their own personal mask/shield (giving them the choice of something they like and that works well for them- and is taken home each day to be sanitized) students in grades 4-12 will be provided a mask or face shield and will have the option of which to use. It is my hope that these requirements are loosened soon. The state does allow exceptions to the mask requirement for medical/disability reasons. Parents may contact the school nurse or superintendent for more information.
- Social distancing will be enforced when possible. Desk guards will be placed in the PK-3rd grade classrooms and the cafeteria.
- Handwashing and/or hand sanitizing required frequently throughout the day. Proper self-care habits will be taught.
- BDISD has just installed a new touchless hand washing station in the elementary building.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. What precautions will be in place on campus?

BDISD will comply with all health and safety mandates established by the health department and the Texas Education Agency.

Classrooms will be arranged to maximize space between students.

2. Will CDC social distancing guidelines be observed?

All areas of the campus will be monitored frequently to encourage social distancing. Social distancing will be observed as much as possible.

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

When notification of a possible exposure occurs, BDISD, in coordination with local health authorities, will complete a thorough risk assessment. Based on this assessment, a determination as to whether an entire classroom or multiple classrooms are required to quarantine will be made. Students will access remote content during the quarantine period.

4. Will visitors be allowed on campuses?

Visitors will be allowed on campuses on a very limited basis following these prevention and mitigation guidelines:

- Utilize the district's self-care questionnaire.
- All visitors required to wear masks.
- All visitors must utilize hand sanitizing stations upon entry.
- Parents will be required to drop off students at designated drop off locations.
- No visitors will be allowed to eat with students.
- For now, classroom parties will not be allowed.

5. What is considered Close Contact?

This document refers to "close contact" as 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 (e.g., 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. How will you address social, emotional, or mental health concerns?

BDISD now has a full-time counselor. She will be available to support students academically, socially, and emotionally and can provide mental health support or resources for families who may be struggling emotionally. If a student needs to schedule a counseling session, please contact the campus principal.

2. Will we still have open-house, meeting the teacher night, and meet the Bobcats night?

More information about open-house and meet the teacher will be provided later.

3. Will buses run?

Yes, transportation will continue for eligible regular bus route students.

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. Windows on the bus will be open, weather permitting.

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

Safety guidelines have been developed for conducting workouts 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 remote instruction?

Yes, students will remain enrolled at their home school.

8. Will meals be provided for students who select remote instruction?

Options are being explored for providing meals to qualified students who select remote instruction. 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 soon.

9. Are immunizations required for remote instruction?

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

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

Students who select remote instruction will be required to attend and participate in class daily. Last spring, students' assignments were limited. Remote instruction this year will be a full course load with assignments that are 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 remote learning meets the same expectations as in-person learning which includes completion of all assignments, communication with the teacher, and a significant daily time commitment. In-person and remote learning will utilize the same grading system. For students who are being served through a special program, remote instruction will affect accommodations and services provided.

11. Who will be required to take state assessments?

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

12. Can a student be counted absent from remote learning?

Yes. In the remote 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.

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

No. In the remote 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. Will the 90% minimum student attendance for class credit rule be in effect for the 2020– 2021 school year?

Yes. The minimum attendance for course credit rule of TEC, §25.092, will be in effect for the 2020–2021 school year and TEA will not issue 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.

15. 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 remotely.