



# Levelland ISD

## School Year Information

### 2020-2021

Levelland ISD is excited to welcome our students back to school in August. Guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will be followed by our school district as we plan for and implement the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 year. Please check this document often for updates as they are subject to change.

We are 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 Levelland ISD plan can be found at:

[SY 20-21 Attendance and Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-2020-21-Attendance-and-Enrollment.pdf)

(<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-2020-21-Attendance-and-Enrollment.pdf>)

[SY 20-21 Public Health Guidance](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/Covid-19-SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf)

(<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/Covid-19-SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>)

If you have questions, please email your question to: [questions@levellandisd.net](mailto:questions@levellandisd.net). The district will respond via E-mail or include the question and response in the FAQ. This is available on the Levelland ISD website under the COVID tab.

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

### Key Details

Levelland ISD plans to reopen with face-to-face instruction beginning on August 19, 2020. Virtual learning options will also be available. Virtual learning will differ vastly from instruction provided in spring 2020. The requirements of virtual instruction are significantly more demanding on students' daily participation and completion of work at home.

### School Year Calendar and School Time Changes

[See the Levelland ISD 2020-2021 Calendar page \(PDF opens in new window\) for details.](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoollfiles/455/final_2020-2021_calendar_-_revised_4-28-20.pdf)

([https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoollfiles/455/final\\_2020-2021\\_calendar\\_-\\_revised\\_4-28-20.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoollfiles/455/final_2020-2021_calendar_-_revised_4-28-20.pdf))

School hours have been revised. Because students are required to attend 75,600 minutes of school each year, Levelland ISD has ensured that all students will earn 480 minutes daily. This allows some flexibility if we are forced to close periodically due to COVID-19 without changing the integrity of the current school calendar significantly. The daily schedule for each of our campuses is reflected in the following table.

<b>CAMPUS</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	<b>END TIME</b>
Levelland High School	7:55 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Levelland Middle School	7:50 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Levelland Intermediate School	7:45 a.m.	3:45 p.m.
Capitol Elementary	7:45 a.m.	3:45 p.m.
South Elementary	7:45 a.m.	3:45 p.m.
Levelland Academic Beginnings Center	7:45 a.m.	3:45 p.m.

## Learning Options

Levelland ISD families will select from two options which will be provided during the above listed start and end times:

- **OPTION 1:** Full-time in-person on campuses, with heightened safety and disinfection protocols.
- **OPTION 2:** Full-time virtual learning with district

## Guidelines for the 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 their preferred method of instruction for the school year. It is imperative that the district receive this information for each student who will attend Levelland ISD this year. Applications will become available as a link on the district website July 29<sup>th</sup> and must be completed by August 5<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be asked to make a firm decision as to whether their child will participate in-person OR virtually so that campuses will be able to staff accordingly. We also need to identify transportation and technology needs during the registration process.

### Virtual Learning Considerations:

Virtual school is an option that can be accessed at any time. If a student begins in one way or another and sees the need to change immediately, please notify your campus for options. After initial placement and actually progressing through the school year, the student must remain with that option until the end of that six week grading period. Switching back and forth repetitively will not be allowed to avoid inconsistency with instruction. Parents must inform the campus of the student's return to in-person attendance at the end of any of the grading periods by the deadlines listed below.

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. If at any point during the school year, the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, all students will be expected to return to in-person instruction.

<b>Grading Period</b>	<b>Notification Deadline</b>
Second	September 18, 2020
Third	October 30, 2020
Fourth	December 11, 2020
Fifth	February 11, 2021
Sixth	March 25, 2021

## **Extracurricular Considerations:**

Although UIL guidance allows students to participate in extracurricular activities in a virtual format, students who choose to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities, student activity groups and specific Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses must choose the in-person option. These include:

- All UIL Activities
  - Athletics, including Cheerleading
  - Band
  - Choir
  - UIL Academics
  - Art (Competitions)
  - One-Act Play
- Construction Technology (LMS)
- Ag Metal Fabrication (LHS)
- Construction & Architecture (LHS)
- FFA
- Health Sciences (Practicum)
- Culinary Arts
- Student Activity Groups (Student Council, etc.)
- Destination Imagination
- GEAR and Robotics
- Any other courses/activities in which administrators deem appropriate

Students participating in CTE courses should check with the counselors as to whether or not in-person instruction is required for participation. If in-person instruction is required, there will be other options for students to consider.

## **Technology:**

Levelland ISD has procured devices for staff and students. However the district does not currently have one device for every student. For this reason, it is recommended that students lacking access to a device or internet services return to the in-person setting.

## **Instructional Efforts Underway for the New School Year:**

- Developing instructional models that support both in-person and virtual learning
- Providing a tablet or Chrome book for students in grades PK-12, as inventory allows

## **Health/Safety Efforts Underway for the New School Year:**

- District administrators will monitor the potential impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Hockley County and follow guidance provided by local health organizations.
- Staff and students/parents should self-screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms. If experiencing any symptoms, students and staff should stay at home.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be strategically located on all campuses.
- Face coverings are mandated at this time by the Governor's order (Executive Order GA 29) for fourth grade and above.
- Social distancing (six feet or two arms' length) will be practiced when possible.
- Hand washing and or hand sanitizing will be required frequently throughout the day.
- Temperature checks will be conducted as needed.
- Students will be limited from sharing personal items and supplies.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Questions

#### **1. What precautions will be in place on campus?**

The health and safety of our students and staff is a priority. To protect both groups, strategies to mitigate spread of COVID-19 include increased cleaning and sanitation practices, as well as frequent reminders of hand hygiene and social distancing. Levelland ISD will comply with all health and safety mandates established by the health department and TEA. Classrooms will be arranged to maximize space between students.

We encourage students and staff to provide their own Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). However, in an effort to get school started, the district will provide face masks, face shields, gloves, thermometers, and hand sanitizer.

#### **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 fourth grade and above. Masks are required when social distancing cannot be practiced. For example, in a classroom where the students may safely be social distanced, masks may not be worn. It is our intent to follow the Governor's order and take care of the needs of our kids simultaneously. Students and staff are responsible to take the measures to protect themselves, others and our district if we have reported COVID-19 exposures. Bandanas will not be allowed to serve as masks on any of our campuses. Masks are available on campuses.

#### **3. 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, but at times students will be closer than the recommended six feet. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained—such as class transitions, etc.—students will be required to wear face coverings as per Executive Order GA29.

Signage reminding students and staff about hand washing, 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, Levelland ISD, in coordination with local health authorities, will begin contact tracing and 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 have the opportunity to access virtual content during the quarantine period.

## 5. Will visitors be allowed on campuses?

Visitors will be allowed on campuses on a very limited basis using the guidelines below.

- All visitors are 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.
- Visitors will not be allowed to eat with students.
- Students in PK-9<sup>th</sup> 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 and 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 six 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 and staff. We believe we will be able to provide instruction to students in whichever format their families choose. Levelland ISD will comply with all mandates regarding social/physical distancing as well as health and hygiene protocols.

### 2. How will you address social, emotional, or mental health concerns?

Counselors are 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 counselor at the email listed below. To ensure staff is equipped to address social and mental health concerns, counselors will continue to host training opportunities including trauma-informed care, Mental Health First Aid, and social emotional learning.

### Levelland ISD Guidance & Counseling Team

Levelland High School	Susan Smith Stacy Waddill	<a href="mailto:ssmith@levellandisd.net">ssmith@levellandisd.net</a> <a href="mailto:swaddill@levellandisd.net">swaddill@levellandisd.net</a>
Levelland Middle School	Sommer Coats	<a href="mailto:scoats@levellandisd.net">scoats@levellandisd.net</a>
Levelland Intermediate	Sandy Billington	<a href="mailto:sbillington@levellandisd.net">sbillington@levellandisd.net</a>
Capitol Elementary	Robin Forsythe	<a href="mailto:rforsythe@levellandisd.net">rforsythe@levellandisd.net</a>
South Elementary	Robyn Parkinson	<a href="mailto:rparkinson@levellandisd.net">rparkinson@levellandisd.net</a>
Levelland Academic Beginnings Center	Toni Williams	<a href="mailto:twilliams@levellandisd.net">twilliams@levellandisd.net</a>

**3. Will we still 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. Campus principals will make contact with parents about changes to our regular Back-to-School events. Some will be virtual in nature and others will be broken down into smaller groups so that we can convene and inform parents and/or students of important Back-to-School information.

**4. Will buses run?**

Yes, transportation will continue for students who are eligible to ride a bus. Parents who are able to transport their own students are encouraged to do so. This will allow for more social distancing on our buses.

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

We cannot guarantee six foot social distancing on our school buses. Students will be instructed on specific safety protocols. The bus driver and students will use provided hand sanitizer on each ride. School buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each run.

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

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

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

Outdoor activities and recess time are encouraged. Elementary students will have recess time with restrictions that reinforce social distancing.

**8. Will students remain enrolled at their schools if they choose virtual instruction?**

Yes, students will remain enrolled at their respective school campus as they participate in virtual instruction.

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

Yes, students who receive instruction virtually may pick up a sack lunch at Levelland Intermediate (Door 16) daily between the hours of 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Intermediate will provide the lunch grab-and-go for all campuses.

**10. Are immunizations required if students are attending virtually?**

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

**11. How will virtual school differ from at-home learning during the closure last spring?**

In spring 2020, student assignments were limited. Virtual school in 2020-2021 will be a full course load with instruction and assignments that are equivalent to the requirements for in-person students. Students who select virtual instruction will be required to attend and participate in class daily during the posted start and end times for their campuses and instruction will be led by a teacher but will also require frequent communication with parents.

Both in-person and virtual learning will utilize the same grading system. For students being served through special education and/or section 504, virtual instruction may affect accommodations and services provided. Consult with your child's campus about any specific needs. ([The South Plains Educational CO-OP \(SPECO\) Reentry Plan \(for Special Education & 504\)](#)) may be found at this link.)

**12. 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. TEA may provide future guidance on this topic, but at this time, state assessments have not been waived.

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

The use of paper packet for instruction will be used as our last resort for instruction. This method is the least effective method of providing students with the content knowledge needed to move to the next grade level.

**14. Can a student be counted absent from virtual learning?**

Yes, in the virtual learning instructional setting, student engagement is measured daily, and attendance is assigned based on the student's completion of that day's engagement measure. In other words, students will be required to participate in viewing instruction presented by the teacher each day and completing assignments and other tasks as assigned. 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.

**15. Under the virtual learning 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 virtual 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 engagement measure 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.

**16. Will the 90% minimum student attendance rule for class credit/grade promotion 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 local education agencies 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.

**17. 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, will 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 assigned campus to provide instruction for students as per the approved Levelland ISD District Calendar.

### **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, Levelland ISD will follow all provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) currently in effect through December 31, 2020.