

Education Rights & Responsibilities During COVID-19



As a result of COVID-19, many families must make decisions about their children's education that factor in student and family safety as well as student learning. This flyer is intended to outline some of the options parents have when returning to school and to share some information regarding those options.

Reducing the risk of COVID-19 spread on campus:

COVID-19 is a risk to staff, students, and families. Your school will take steps to reduce that risk to the extent possible, including:

- ▶ **Keeping individuals who have the virus or were recently exposed to the virus off campus.** This means that you are required to keep your child off campus if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- ▶ **Restricting access to learning on campus, in three cases:**
 - ① Many schools will phase in the start of school on campus. During this phase-in period, your child may be required to participate in school remotely, even if you want your child to be educated on campus.
 - ② At some point in the year, your child may be required to temporarily switch to remote instruction to prevent the spread of the virus, even if you want your child to be educated on campus.
 - ③ Families of high school students should be aware that some schools will allow high school students on campus only on certain days or at certain times.
- ▶ **Requiring students, staff, and visitors, including students' families, to adopt some new practices to reduce COVID-19 spread, including, in most cases, wearing masks.** This may mean that your child will be required to wear a mask to attend school on campus.



On-Campus and Remote Instruction:

Other than the exceptions listed above, every student should have access to on-campus instruction if the family chooses on-campus instruction. **Every student also has the option to stay home** and receive remote instruction if the family chooses that option, although this may require the family to change schools or school systems.

- ▶ If families choose the remote instruction option, a school may limit the ability for them to switch back to on-campus instruction to specific times during the year. Schools may also choose to prevent remote-only students from participating in extra-curricular activities.



Choices for Families:

Most – but not all – public schools in Texas offer remote instruction this year. **Many schools accept student transfers for remote instruction.** Some accept transfers for on-campus instruction. You can typically change schools for any reason, as long as the school you would like your child to attend is accepting transfers.



Attendance Requirements:

With some exceptions, **your student must attend at least 90% of their daily classes** in order to get credit for the class and/or be promoted to the next grade. This is true whether your child attends school on campus or whether your child receives instruction remotely.



What we do outside of school will affect whether we can go to school:



Wear a face mask



You may have to stay home...

- ▶ **If you have symptoms, stay home.**
- ▶ **If you were recently exposed, stay home.**
- ▶ **If you're waiting for test results, stay home.**



If you have concerns about any on-campus or remote instruction procedures for this school year, we encourage you to talk to your child's school.

It will be a very different school year for all of us. You and your child may run into new challenges. If you do run into difficulties during the year, please talk to your child's school. Complaints can be filed with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), but, in most cases, parents must first attempt to resolve any problems they have by working with the school and/or district before TEA will review a complaint.

We are hopeful that the upcoming school year, despite challenges, will be a positive learning experience for your child.