



Duncanville ISD

Safe Return to School & Continuity of Services Plan for 2022-2023

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Rationale

Duncanville Independent School District continues to monitor health risks that arise in the community. This document details the District's plan to provide instruction and continuity of services. The processes and protocols outlined are intended to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all staff and students while taking into consideration the decrease in COVID-19 cases, increase in vaccinations, and access to personal protective equipment and resources. This plan will continue to be reviewed at a minimum of every six months, and will be revised as needed based on changing circumstances.

As a part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government provided Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to school districts across the country. This is the third law providing funding as a response to the pandemic; the ARP is also referred to as ARP ESSER III or ESSER III.

Duncanville ISD applied to receive our allocation of ESSER III funding as determined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Duncanville ISD is entitled to approximately \$24.9 in ESSER III funds, and at least 20% of those funds must be used to address learning loss. ESSER III can also fund academic supports, social-emotional supports, health/safety, and continuity of services.

TEA strongly encourages school systems to plan for how to use these one-time federal funds expeditiously over the entire covered period. ESSER III funds must be spent by September 2024.

Duncanville ISD solicited feedback from all District and community stakeholders to help determine how the District should best utilize ESSER III funds. A public hearing was held before the Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees board meeting on Monday, July 19, 2021. The ARP ESSER III survey was shared on the district website and social media platform. The survey was opened on Friday, May 13, and closed on Friday, June 8 at 5:00 p.m.

The survey results as well as our RIPICS plan were also shared with the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) on Monday, September 27, 2021 and the District Effectiveness Improvement Committee (DEIC) on December 6, 2021. Both group of stakeholders were able to review the plan and provide feedback. ESSER planning (which included DEIC and SHAC input) was shared during a plan to use the ESSER III funds report at a Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022.

To inform the survey submissions of all stakeholders, Duncanville has developed this Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan. It was presented to district stakeholders for input during the public hearing held before the start of the Board of Trustees meeting on July 19, 2021. The plan was reviewed and revised again on March 29, 2022, reviewed on April 4, and reviewed and revised on August 23, 2022.

Confidentiality

Campus and district staff members are expected to comply with district policy and state/federal laws regarding the protection and privacy of student health information.

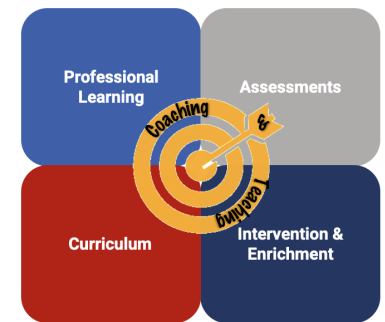
- GBA (LEGAL) - Protected Health Information: An individual's protected health information as defined by Health and Safety Code 181.006 is not public information and is not subject to disclosure under the PIA. Gov't Code 552.002(d)

Instructional Arrangements

Continuity of Instruction

During the 2022-23 school year, Duncanville ISD will offer a face-to-face learning environment for all students. Instruction will support a student-centered learning environment that promotes academic excellence and addresses the needs of students due to learning loss caused by the pandemic.

To support the implementation of the District's expectations of a rich learning environment for all students, Duncanville's Instructional 5 (instructional areas of focus) for learning will provide specific components that will be evidenced in instruction for students.



One of the components of the Instructional 5 is intervention (progress monitoring) and assessment. For the 2022-23 school year, Duncanville teachers will administer specific diagnostic assessments, universal screeners, district learning assessments, and classroom formative assessments to measure student learning and progress. This data is utilized to determine if targeted intervention supports are needed for students.

The District will utilize staff designated for academic intervention for identified students. Each campus will have a Teacher Specialist and Interventionist to provide targeted support. Student performance data on STAAR indicates that overall, most students experienced learning loss during the 2020-21 school year. In response, funds have been allocated to provide additional academic support.

Summer programming is an essential component of mitigating learning loss for students. Duncanville ISD implemented summer programs to support students as they transition into the 2021-22 school year. These were continued for the 2022-23 school year.

Supporting Special Populations

As the District plans for the return of students who have engaged in virtual learning for a significant duration of time, it is imperative that students receive special education services; have specific plans and supports in place to account for significant regression of skills (both academic and social) that may be present. The District will concentrate its focus on meeting the needs of all students in a successful transition back to face-to-face instruction.

Student Attendance

Students will be expected to be in attendance 90% of instructional days as required by state law. In the event a student is quarantined due to confirmed exposure or a confirmed case of COVID-19, absences will be excused. However the student will be required to make-up all missed assignments in accordance with the district grading guidelines.

Health and Wellness

The safety of students, teachers, and staff is the District's foremost priority. Duncanville ISD is committed to working with local health departments and physicians to receive information and implement safety protocols to slow the spread of diseases and support and protect students and staff. Staff and students will adhere to the [Duncanville ISD 2021 - 2022 Student Health & Safety Processes for COVID - 19](#).

Protective Equipment and Practices

Facilities are expected to maintain high expectations for adherence to the health and safety precautions outlined by the district. Facilities have some flexibility to add protective practices based on operational capacity and need. The district guidelines are in accordance with current CDC and Dallas County Health advisement.

- It is recommended that students and staff members wear protective face coverings at school and on the bus. This is not a requirement but will be encouraged.
- Temperatures will be checked routinely based on campus/facility protocols.
- Desks should be spaced out 3 feet when possible to allow for social distancing or desk/face shields made available.
- Campuses will provide an isolation room for students experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
- Efforts must be made by campuses and student organizations to socially distant large groups of students and stakeholders in assemblies, common areas, practices, etc.

Cleaning and Sanitation Protocols

- Facilities will be e-misted nightly with sanitizing spray.
- Classrooms will be equipped with handheld e-misters and sanitizing spray for during the day sanitation.
- Students will be required to routinely use hand sanitizer and wash hands throughout the school day.
- Materials and equipment that require disinfecting should be left out (not in cabinets or carts) to be sanitized nightly.
- Laptops and other devices will be sanitized regularly.
- School buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily and equipped with hand sanitizer.

Vaccinations

The district will not require that any staff or student receive a COVID-19 vaccine as an expectation for employment or enrollment unless otherwise mandated by county, state, and federal CDC guidelines. The district may seek opportunities to offer vaccination clinics but participation will be optional.

Social, Emotional Mental Health Supports

Students will continue to be provided social, emotional supports consistent with what was provided during the prior year. K-8 students will be supported during their homeroom through SEL Time utilizing a research-based SEL curriculum. Support counselors will be provided at every campus to provide individualized and small group support to address trauma-related needs. Campus counselors will provide guidance lessons as well as individualized counseling support. SEL resources will be accessible by students and families through the district website. Every K-6 campus will have calming corners established as spaces for cool down and to help students regain emotional composure and calmness. 9-12 grade students will receive support through Restorative Practices Strategies embedded into the instructional day.

Currently, there are 8 additional student support counselors assigned to campuses to address SEL and mental health student needs. They provide individual and group sessions to students who have more significant mental health challenges as well as respond to mental health crises including but not limited to suicide outcries, grief, abuse, etc.

The district provides 2 social workers to support students and families by removing barriers to ensure educational access. They serve as case managers for students identified under McKinney-Vento, pregnancy related services, and foster care. Campuses make referrals to the social workers when a student is identified as needing support with clothing, supplies, health care, hygiene, parent guidance, and other attendance barriers. They also serve as part of the crisis response team for the district.

Professional Development

Social and emotional learning (SEL) strategies have been embedded into the required professional learning for teachers and administrators throughout the school year. With a focus on learner dispositions, teachers and students will define behaviors that support their learning and work to strengthen and improve them through a goal setting and feedback process. Teachers will also have professional learning options in trauma-informed classrooms and Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) in the classroom setting.

Employee Mental Health

The Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees has allocated resources to provide free mental health support for employees of the district. We have partnered with DialCare Mental Wellness to offer counseling sessions with state-licensed mental health professionals – at no cost to employees.

Employees will be able to schedule sessions with mental health professionals by phone or video chat, and the service is available from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day of the week. The counselors will be prepared to discuss issues many of us are facing, such as anxiety, depression, addiction, relationship problems, and grief.

Consultations will be available in English and Spanish, and employees can request the same professional for follow-up sessions. Employees can download the DialCare app for their phone or other device and set an appointment.

To learn more, go to www.dialcare.com or call (844) 249-4094.

Monitoring Symptoms and Exposure

Campuses will continue to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms through the campus clinics and school nurses. Students will not be required to complete the daily screener however, students with symptoms should not attend school. All students with symptoms or exposure will be tracked and followed up with by the campus nurse. Nurses will be required to maintain a daily health log to track symptoms.

Students that are demonstrating symptoms or have been exposed through close contact, and have not been fully vaccinated, may be quarantined for a minimum of 7 school days as applicable. To return, a student must be fever free for at least 24 hours with improved symptoms and have a negative COVID test after day 5. A medical diagnosis can also be provided confirming symptoms are associated with a non-communicable condition.

Parents will receive notification if their child was in close contact. These guidelines are subject to change based on updates from the CDC and/or state or local health authorities.

Responding to Positive COVID Cases

Student positive COVID-19 cases will follow the same processes as implemented in 2020-2021. When students test positive, they will submit a notification through the district website. The student will be quarantined for a minimum of 10 school days. Contact tracing will be conducted by the campus to determine if any other students or staff members were in close contact. Campuses will notify the district and custodial services upon confirmation of a positive student case, at which time, additional campus and classroom sanitation will take place.

Notifications of Exposures and Positive Cases

Notifications will be sent by the campuses to individual students if exposed to a positive on-campus case. A general all campus notification will be sent out by the school in the event of an on-campus case.

Rapid Testing for District Employees

Rapid testing for COVID-19 will continue to be available at all campuses for district employees during the 2021-22 school year.