



Gonzales ISD Return to School Guidance

Many Tribes. One Nation.

Meeting People Where They Are.



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Introduction

Conditions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic are ever-changing. Gonzales ISD's return-to-school plans for 2020-2021 are fluid and will be continually evaluated and updated in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. The most updated information from Gonzales ISD will be published on our district website. In addition, the District will continue to notify families of any and all major updates that are published.

Gonzales ISD has developed this **Return to School Guide** for 2020-21 to inform parents and students about their choices for the new school year. Regardless of the instructional option parents select for their child, Gonzales ISD is fully prepared and committed to providing a high-quality, rigorous learning environment that focuses on students' safety, as well as their academic, social and emotional well-being.

Gonzales Independent School District is committed to meeting students, guardians, staff, and all stakeholders where they are to ensure student safety and success.

Although the current pandemic creates new and dynamic challenges for our school system, we are committed to focusing on this core purpose with an even greater urgency. The purpose of this document is to communicate our plan for the 2020-21 school year as it relates to **four key areas**:

1. Health & Safety
2. Instructional Options for Families
3. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
4. Student Support Services

District Commitments

- Adopt protocols that place student and staff safety at the forefront.
- Achieve educational equity and access for all students through opportunities and resources to help students reach their full, individual potential.
- Offer a full range of individualized programming through face-to-face, in-person learning or remote, online learning
- Follow a shared scope and sequence whether learning at school or at home.
- Adhere to District grading guidelines, teacher expectations, and student support systems.
- Hold students accountable to the 90% attendance requirement for earning course credit regardless of a student’s chosen learning environment.
- Provide learning experiences designed to meet the learner where they are aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
- Cultivate students who are self-managing, self-modifying, and self-motivated

Campus Commitments

- Implement protocols that place student and staff safety at the forefront
- Provide educational equity and access to instructional resources
- Provide instructional schedules for onsite and online learning to meet the needs of all students
- Implement the District scope and sequence
- Adhere to District grading guidelines, teacher expectations, and student support systems.
- Communicate onsite and online expectations of students, staff, and families

Teacher Commitments

- Practice and enforce safety protocols
- Implement the scope and sequence and other curriculum components through engaging lessons
- Provide onsite and online lessons that are aligned with one another and follow best practices
- Communicate expectations, office hours, and instructional schedules to students and their guardians
- Adhere to GISD grading guidelines
- Provide effective feedback of student progress on a weekly basis
- Incorporate technology into everyday instruction for onsite and online students
- Attend and participate in professional learning
- Follow student IEPs/504 accommodations in all learning environments

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Student Commitments

- Follow the designated schedule communicated by their campus/teacher
- Complete and submit assignments as designated by teacher guidelines both onsite and online (asynchronous)
- Engage in all parts of the lesson cycle
- Follow all school regulations and guidelines, including dress-code
- Follow teacher expectations for onsite and online learning
- Adhere to the One:Nation handbook in caring for their district issued device

Parent/Guardian Commitments

- Facilitate academic support and encouragement to motivate and guide your child throughout the school year in your role as a learning partner
- Ensure your child is on track with assignments and coursework (which includes, but is not limited to: video mini-lesson, lesson activity or assignment, assessments, daily reading, etc.)
- Assist in supporting your child's needs by establishing and managing the daily schedule communicated by the teacher
- Consider creating a designated learning space for your child at home to learn comfortably
- Maintain communication with your child's teacher
- Support the District's commitment to cultivate students who are self-managing, self-modifying, and self-motivated

Communications

GISD will update the district website regularly with pertinent information.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our staff and students remains our highest priority. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the protocols and steps we have outlined in this document are based on public health and governmental directives, as well as advancing scientific knowledge on the transmissibility of COVID-19. They are intended to increase the likelihood that staff and students can teach and learn in a safe school environment and reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. Consistently implementing these protocols is the best way to reduce the potential negative impact of infection on students' educational experiences and on the health and safety of students and staff.

Optional Instructional Choices

Gonzales ISD is scheduled to start the 2020-21 school year August 17. Given current public health conditions and concerns over the rise in coronavirus cases in our region, Parents will have the choice between two learning environments for their child. They may choose online instruction, or their child may attend face-to-face instruction by attending school on campus each day. More information about **Instructional Options for Families** can be found in the next section. Parents will be asked to make their decision for onsite instruction or online instruction no later than Monday, August 10, 2020.

Site Coordinator

Each campus will have a designated person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. The Site Coordinator will be the principal of the school or the principal's designee of another administrator. The campus Site Coordinators will work as a team in conjunction with District officials to ensure a consistent, coordinated response.

Prevention and Mitigation Practices	
Arrival/Dismissal	<p>Arrival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should avoid early to drop-offs in the morning • Parents who are driving their children to school should remain in vehicles • Parents or older siblings who are walking their children to school will be asked to remain outside • Hand-sanitizer will be available inside the main entrance • Students will report to home-room, first period class, or other designated location according to campus procedures <p>Dismissal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups. Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders or grade levels will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time • Sanitizer stations will be placed at each exit and students will be encouraged to sanitize hands prior to exit • Parents picking up students during the day must call ahead so that students can be sent or accompanied to parent vehicles upon arrival • Early pick-ups will not be permitted one hour before the dismissal time, with the exception of required doctor appointments
Cafeteria: Breakfast & Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines. Physical distance will be provided around each occupiable seat. • Hand sanitizer stations will be available in the cafeteria. • Signage and staff will reinforce physical distance and traffic patterns. • Meals may be packaged as individualized “grab and go” meals to ensure ease of pick up and transport to eating locations. • Eating in classrooms may be an option if we cannot safely distance children in the cafeteria. • Every campus will devise lunch schedules and formats, including outside areas, that allow students to eat safely apart from each other. • Reference Child Nutrition in the Student Support Services section of this document for more information.

<p>Classrooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class size will depend on the number of guardians who elect the onsite instructional model for their students ● Each classroom will maintain flat surfaces and a clutter free environment for disinfecting ● Teachers and staff will have access to disinfectant wipes or spray to sanitize high-touch surfaces and shared objects during the instructional day ● Teachers will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require hand hygiene when entering the classroom and after group activities ○ Create physical distance between desks and tables as much as instructionally practical ○ Establish appropriate student responsibilities to clean personal areas and materials/supplies, as needed ○ Incorporate outdoor teaching when appropriate ○ Where appropriate and feasible, keep classroom doors open to improve circulation and reduce the touching of door handles ○ Limit the use of shared supplies and sanitize any shared supplies. ● Teachers will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
<p>Cleaning and Disinfecting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District has ordered cleaning and sanitizing supplies. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) also has procured supplies for school districts. ● Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned daily. ● All high touch areas will be disinfected daily. ● Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.
<p>Common Areas and Transitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will wear a face mask unless eating or drinking or maintaining social distance of 6 feet or greater. ● Students will be expected to wear masks in accordance with Governor, CDC, and TEA guidelines ● Staggered releases from each class may be organized to limit the number of students in the hallway during transitions. When transitioning between classes, students will travel corridors with as much distance as possible. ● Campuses will develop visual reminders for students to maintain physical distance and adhere to established campus traffic flow in hallways. ● Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible. One-way traffic throughout the campus corridors may be established if feasible. ● Access to hand sanitizer will be provided in common areas and classrooms.

<p>Extracurricular: Athletics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow guidance of TEA, UIL and our local health authority related to extracurricular/athletic activities. If a student selects online learning, they are eligible for participation in extracurricular activities as long as they meet UIL and district requirements for participation. • Athletic events will follow participation guidelines set by the UIL. • Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol including health screening, group size, sharing and sanitizing of equipment, and locker room usage. • Hand sanitizing stations will be available in gym facilities, and equipment will be sanitized regularly. • If locker rooms can be accessed, all locker room space will be utilized to follow social distancing guidelines. • Bus travel will follow the transportation guidelines provided by the District and TEA. • Spectator attendance at games and contests may be limited. Ticketing for events may be utilized to control the capacity of facilities. • Postgame sign-out procedures for athletes will be communicated to parents prior to the beginning of each season. • Event procedures will be in place to minimize face-to-face interactions. • Separate entrances and exits may be utilized and event doors may be propped open to minimize physical contact with handles. • Spectator seats may be marked and/or configured in a way to enforce social distancing. • Concessions and/or concession sales may be limited to encourage social distancing and to follow health and safety guidelines. • Booster club meetings should be held virtually to minimize outside exposure to campuses.
<p>Extracurricular: Fine Arts/Clubs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow guidance of TEA, UIL and our local health authority related to extracurricular/fine arts activities. If a student selects online learning, they are eligible for participation in extracurricular activities as long as they meet UIL and district requirements for participation. • Large group practice sessions, sectionals, and rehearsals will adhere to social distancing guidelines. • Concerts/performances may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the manner in which performances are conducted. • Booster club meetings should be held virtually to minimize outside exposure to campuses.

<p>Face Coverings (to include cloth face covering, mask, shield)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are expected to wear a face covering at all times except when eating, drinking, exercising, or maintaining a distance of 6 feet or more from other individuals. ● Students will wear masks in accordance with the Governor’s proclamation, TEA guidance, and CDC recommendations unless otherwise specified in the campus plan. ● All students are asked to wear a face covering when riding the school bus. ● Certain individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities may be unable to effectively wear a face covering. ● Parents are encouraged to send their children to school with a clean face covering each day.
<p>Hand Washing and Sanitizing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entrance to the campus, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus. Classrooms will have hand sanitizer and/or hand soap at sinks for hand washing. ● Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands ● Students will be instructed to use hand soap or hand sanitizer upon entry to the classroom with periodic teacher reminders during the instructional day. ● Students will be instructed to thoroughly wash hands after recess, before and after eating and restroom breaks.
<p>Health Screenings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to coming to work, including checking temperature. Staff with COVID-19 symptoms should not report to work, but should contact their health care provider and their supervisor. ● Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school or putting them on a school bus. ● Parents’ cooperation in not sending children to school who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms and in screening their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day before school will be critical to keeping our children and staff safe and healthy.

<p>Hygiene and Safety Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will receive instruction on the first day and during the first week of school on appropriate hygiene and mitigation strategies, including proper hand washing technique and respiratory etiquette. • Student and staff training will be reinforced frequently throughout the school year. • Signage will be placed in visible common areas and in classrooms with reminders about health and hygiene protocols and safety measures.
<p>Isolation Protocol (for students/staff displaying COVID-19 symptoms)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a student displays possible symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the school nurse will conduct a clinical assessment to determine if the student needs to be sent home. • If a nurse determines a student must go home due to possible COVID-19 symptoms or illness, the student will be isolated in a designated campus location until parent arrival. The student must be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than one hour from the time the campus contacted the parent. • If a student becomes ill in a classroom with suspected COVID-19 symptoms, it may be necessary for other students to be removed from the classroom and taken to an alternate location on campus (e.g. go on a walk outside, move to a different room, etc.) so that the classroom can be disinfected. • Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district employee protocols. • Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to meet established “return to school/work” criteria, which may include a statement from a physician. See Return to School Criteria at the end of this section. • Parents will be informed if their student is determined to have come into contact with a student or staff member who has a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test. • Students or staff who come into close contact* with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and may not return to campus during that time. Note: *Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or within 6 feet for a prolonged period.
<p>Parent Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent meetings will be held onsite or online as determined by the campus • Parents and teachers are encouraged to communicate regularly via email and/or Google Classroom to ensure students have the necessary support to be successful

<p>Recess (exercise/play)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor transmission of the virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission. To mitigate the risk of transmission, we will work to cohort students and limit the size of groups at recess at any given time. • Although we will teach children to maintain safe distances from each other while on the playground, enforcing physical distancing on the playground may be difficult. • Children will wash or sanitize their hands at the beginning and end of recess. • Face coverings will not be required during recess
<p>School Closure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be a situation that requires the temporary closure of physical buildings and onsite instruction. The District is prepared to quickly transition into a remote/virtual instruction model for all students in the event our buildings have to close temporarily. • Any decisions will be guided by the health information provided to us by state and local agencies
<p>Student Health Services (nurse)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must be in compliance regarding immunizations prior to school starting. • Teachers and other adults will monitor their students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if COVID-19 symptoms present. • The campus nurse will educate teachers on what to look for in students and what types of issues require a referral to the nurse. • In the event a campus nurse is out, there will be a substitute nurse or other staff member/substitute trained to address COVID-19 issues and other illnesses.
<p>Symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any person experiencing fever of 100.4°F or higher or who is feeling ill with COVID-19 symptoms, should not come to school and should contact their health care provider for guidance. • Any person who has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 should remain at home. Note: *Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or within 6 feet for a prolonged period. • Symptoms of COVID-19 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feeling feverish or having a measured temperature of 100.4°F or more ○ Uncontrolled cough with difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline) ○ Headache ○ Sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain

<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The district encourages the use of personal transportation, if possible. ● Parents are required to screen children each day, including temperature check, before bringing them to the bus stop. (See Health Screening in this chart.) ● Student temperatures will be checked before boarding the bus. ● Students will use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus. ● Students will have assigned seats using a seating chart. ● All students are asked to wear a face covering while riding the school bus. The bus driver will also wear a face covering. ● Windows will be cracked to allow for air circulation on the bus. ● Buses will be disinfected after the morning route and again after the afternoon route using an approved disinfectant sprayer.
<p>Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GISD will limit visitors to campuses to essential visits only, including restricting parents from eating with children in the cafeteria or classroom. This period will include at least the first 12 weeks of school. ● At any time a visitor comes to campus, he/she will have to self screen and have their temperature taken using a contactless thermometer. A person experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 as defined by the CDC and TEA will not be allowed to remain on campus.
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The use of water fountains will be restricted. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home each day.
<p>Return to School Criteria for Students</p>	<p>Symptomatic Students AND Lab confirmed Asymptomatic Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For a student who thinks or knows he/she has COVID-19 and has symptoms, he/she can return to school when the following three conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 24 hours has passed with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) AND ○ Respiratory symptoms have improved AND ○ 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared <p>If the student has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or ● (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19

Instructional Options for Families

For the 2020-21 school year, Gonzales ISD will offer each student two options for attendance and instruction. The first option is to attend school 100% of the time on campus for face-to-face, in-person instruction. GISD will offer a second option for 100% online, virtual instruction through an asynchronous model. Both options are available for children in grades PK through 12. Online learning is an “opt-in” learning model. A student will automatically be placed in onsite instruction unless otherwise selected.

Transitional Start

In accordance with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) recommendations, students will be required to remain in their selected method of instruction (onsite or online) for the duration of the grading period. At the conclusion of the grading period, students can move from one instructional model to the other. **GISD will offer a transitional start to accommodate families in making the choice for onsite or online instruction. Under this model, for the first grading period, students may shift from their current instructional model at the three week mark of the six week grading period.**

Option 1: ONSITE

The onsite model will consist of **face-to-face, in-person** instruction that is 100% on campus with safety protocols in place to help protect students and staff. Instruction on campus will happen Monday through Friday following a traditional bell schedule with minor adjustments to limit transitions and person-to-person contact. For further information, refer to your child’s campus bell schedule.

Option 2: ONLINE

The online model is **entirely virtual**, requiring students to have a consistent online presence and daily log-in requirements and progression through the Learning Management System (LMS), Google Classroom. Virtual instruction will happen Monday through Friday, but may not necessarily follow a traditional bell schedule. All K-2 students will be issued an iPad and 3rd-12th grade students will be issued a ChromeBook. For further information about the One:1Nation initiative, please refer to the One:1Nation Handbook. Reliable internet access is essential for online learning. Please note, online learning is NOT equivalent to homeschooling.

Selecting a Learning Option for Your Child

We believe that the face-to-face, in-person instructional setting of a classroom and the relationship and interactions with teachers and peers provide the best environment for the vast majority of students; therefore, we encourage parents to send their children to school.

Timeframe for Selecting a Learning Option

Because the planning required to safely open school is unprecedented, we respectfully request that parents make their selection of ONSITE or ONLINE instruction as quickly as possible. The sooner the District has accurate enrollment numbers, the sooner we can make necessary assignments and adjustments to our programming to meet student needs. A parent who does not select a learning option will default to the ONSITE model and have their child automatically assigned to classes on campus. Parents who have multiple children in GISD will be allowed to choose the learning model that best serves each child. **A student will remain in the selected learning environment until the end of the 6-week grading period. However, GISD will offer a transitional start to accommodate families in making the choice for onsite or online instruction. Under this model, for the first grading period, students may shift from their current instructional model at the three week mark of the six week grading period.**

The deadline for parents to select either online or onsite instruction is August 10, 2020.

All students, regardless of the learning environment, must be registered for the 2020-2021 school year. Students who are not registered will not receive a schedule or be assigned into a classroom.

Learning Options At-A-Glance		
	Onsite	Online
Assessment	Students will take curriculum-based, District, and State assessments according to GISD’s assessment calendars for elementary and secondary .	Students will take curriculum-based, District, and State assessments according to GISD’s assessment calendar elementary and secondary .
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEA attendance policies will be followed for all students. • Students must abide by the 90% attendance/completion for credit. • Attendance will be taken daily during each campus’ official attendance time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEA attendance policies will be followed for all students. • Students must abide by the 90% attendance/completion for credit. • Attendance will be taken daily based on that day’s student participation in the Learning Management System (LMS), Google Classroom, computer-based programs, student-teacher interaction, and/or submitted assignments. NOTE: Students must engage daily in one of the above mentioned methods to be counted as Asynchronous Present.
Curriculum	Teachers will provide instruction according to the Texas state standards in the order and pace designed in the GISD curriculum plan.	Teachers will provide instruction according to the Texas state standards in the order and pace designed in the GISD curriculum plan.
Grading	Grades will be assigned according to District grading guidelines	Grades will be assigned according to District grading guidelines

<p>Student Schedules</p>	<p>Students will receive daily schedules with 450 instructional minutes</p> <p>Please refer to your campus schedule for your student's schedule.</p>	<p>Students will receive instruction through the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily live student/teacher interaction and engagement via videoconferencing • Online activities and programming via Google Classroom • Computer-based instructional programs <p>The number of instructional minutes is comparable to onsite instruction to ensure that students stay on track in grade level curriculum.</p> <p>For questions about your student's asynchronous instructional schedule, please contact your student's campus.</p>
<p>Parent Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will ensure their child attends school each day and meets the 90% attendance requirement • Parents will monitor their child's progress and grades • Parents will maintain regular communication with teacher(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will ensure their child attends virtual school each day and meets the 90% attendance requirement • Parents are encouraged to attend district-provided training regarding supporting their child in online learning • Parents should monitor their child's progress and ask for evidence their child is on track with assignments and coursework • Parents should establish and monitor the daily schedule communicated by the teacher • Parents should maintain regular communication with teacher(s) by phone, email, and/or online meetings to create a learning partnership

<p>Student Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will attend school each day according to their class schedule and complete assigned classwork and homework to show mastery of the curriculum. • Students will follow the GISD Student Code of Conduct and dress code during online instruction. • Students will take responsibility for asking for help, asking questions, and taking advantage of tutorial sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will participate in virtual learning each day (logging into Google Classroom, watching instructional videos, and/or interacting with teachers according to the student’s schedule and teacher expectations). • Students will complete assigned classwork and homework to show mastery and submit through Google Classroom daily. • Students will follow the GISD Student Code of Conduct and dress code during online instruction. • Students will take responsibility for asking for help, asking questions, and taking advantage of tutorial sessions.
<p>Teacher Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will provide daily instruction, support, academic feedback and progress monitoring to students in-person. • Following the GISD Employee Handbook and Dress Code • Monitor and Adjust instruction and support based on student need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will report to their campus each day to facilitate their virtual classes. • Teachers will provide daily recorded or interactive instruction, support and progress monitoring. • Teachers will provide academic feedback through Google Classroom or similar platforms at a minimum of once per week per student. • Follow the GISD Employee Handbook and Dress Code • Monitor and adjust instruction and support based on student need

<h2>Considerations for Decision Making</h2>	
Onsite	Online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Does your child receive primary instruction (grades PK-2)? ★ Does your child benefit from hands-on, in-person interaction to learn new concepts? ★ Does your child benefit from frequent support or supervision to complete assignments? ★ Does your child need extra support to read on grade level? ★ Does your child need additional behavioral supports to stay focused during learning? ★ Does your child have a disability or learning challenges that are best addressed via in-person instruction? ★ Did your child struggle with online learning during the spring of 2020? ★ Is your child starting at a new campus this year? ★ Did your child experience significant loss of skills after school closures in spring of 2020? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Is your child able to read grade-level material independently? ★ Is your child self-motivated and self-disciplined in order to take ownership of learning and stay organized? ★ Will your child recognize when to ask for assistance and seek support from their teacher? ★ How did your child do with online learning during spring of 2020 (understanding that the 2020-2021 virtual school will be more in-depth, challenging, and time intensive for your student)? ★ Do you and/or your child have adequate computer skills to email, submit assignments, and access online learning platforms? ★ Does your student have access to reliable internet service throughout the day? ★ Do you have a designated space for your child to engage in instruction and complete assignments with limited distractions? ★ Are you able to provide appropriate supervision and support within the home to allow for implementation of student schedules? ★ Are you able to ensure your child is available during the instructional day for virtual lessons and meetings with their teacher? ★ Do you have reliable transportation to access the school periodically for specialized classes or assessments?

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Whether ONSITE or ONLINE, Gonzales ISD is prepared to address the needs of all students in the 2020-21 school year. This includes their needs related to grade level achievement, academic supports, social emotional development, and more. **This section focuses on explaining the online school option.** While parents and students gained some experience with this mode of learning during our school closure in the spring, online instruction will look quite different than it did during emergency shutdown. Protocols and requirements for online learning will look different as well. Please refer to your student’s campus plan for online learning as an additional resource.

PK-5th Grade	
Core Curriculum	<p>Students will receive instruction based on required state standards in the same order and at the same pace as students receiving on-site instruction. Students may receive instruction in the following ways to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live interaction with the teacher (whole class, small group and individual sessions) • Teacher-created instructional videos and additional resources • Authentic student work/assignments submitted through Google Classroom with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard • Work in computer-based instructional programs for a specified amount of time • Students will take curriculum-based assessments, District assessments, and state assessments according to GISD’s assessment calendar, including STAAR, TELPAS, LION, and CIRCLE.
Bilingual	Students receiving Bilingual education services will continue to receive bilingual instruction following the district’s language framework for grades Pre Kindergarten through Fifth grade.
ESL	Students receiving ESL services will continue to receive services through sheltered instruction.
Dyslexia Services	Students will receive Dyslexia instruction through a combination of, but not limited to: live lessons, recorded and interactive lessons, individualized assignments, and independent practice through the Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia by the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. The combination of these services will amount to at least 45 minutes, 4 days per week of dyslexia intervention.

PK-5th Grade Continued	
Gifted/Talented	Gifted and talented lessons will be provided through Google Classroom in alignment with onsite GT programming. Students will have the opportunity to engage in live or pre-recorded sessions with the GT teacher and sometimes peers.
Special Education	Students will receive services as described in their Individualized Education Plan to the maximum extent possible. See Special Education section in this document for additional details.
Section 504	Students will receive services as described in their Section 504 plan to the maximum extent possible. Student plans will be reviewed and revised, as needed, in order to accommodate student needs.
Specials	The district will provide lessons for music, art, computer, and PE. Students will be allowed to participate in live performances.
UIL Activities	If a student selects online learning, they are eligible for participation in extracurricular activities as long as they meet UIL and district requirements for participation.

6th-8th Grade	
Core Curriculum	<p>Students will receive instruction based on required state standards in the same order and at the same pace as students receiving on-site instruction.</p> <p>Students may receive instruction in the following ways to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to 4 hours of daily, live interaction with the teacher (whole class, small group and individual sessions). ● Teacher-created instructional videos and additional resources ● Authentic student work/assignments submitted through Google Classroom with timely and relevant feedback for continued progress in learning of the standard ● Hands-on activities which may need an extra pair of at “home” hands ● Work in computer-based instructional programs for a specified amount of time ● Work in other digital platforms such as SeeSaw, FlipGrid, and/or Google Forms ● Students will take curriculum-based assessments, District assessments, and state assessments according to GISD’s assessment calendar, including STAAR, TELPAS, and LION.

6th-8th Grade Continued	
ESL	Students receiving ESL services will continue to receive services through sheltered instruction.
Dyslexia Services	Students will receive Dyslexia instruction through a combination of, but not limited to: live lessons, recorded and interactive lessons, individualized assignments, and independent practice through the Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia by the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. The combination of these services will amount to at least 45 minutes, 4 days per week of dyslexia intervention.
Special Education	Students will receive services as described in their Individualized Education Plan to the maximum extent possible. See Special Education section in this document for additional details.
Section 504	Students will receive services as described in their Section 504 plan to the maximum extent possible. Student plans will be reviewed and revised, as needed, in order to accommodate student needs.
Electives	The district will provide lessons for music, art, computer, and PE.
UIL Activities	If a student selects online learning, they are eligible for participation in extracurricular activities as long as they meet UIL and district requirements for participation.

9th-12th Grade	
Core Curriculum	<p>Students will receive instruction for their core curriculum primarily through Google Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular grading policies apply. ● Students are required to engage in the learning platform and complete assignments on a daily basis. ● Students will take curriculum-based assessments, District assessments, and state assessments according to GISD’s assessment calendar, including STAAR, TELPAS, and LION. ● Courses from both Edgenuity and Google Classroom will count towards a student’s GPA. <p>Google Classroom Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will be facilitated by a teacher. ● Will have required live or pre-recorded student/teacher interaction up to 4 hours a week. ● Tutorials and/or office hours will be available

9th-12th Grade Continued	
CTE	Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses may require some onsite attendance for labs and skill assessment.
Dual Credit	GISD will adhere to the Victoria College Dual Credit platform for learning for 2020-2021.
ESL	Students receiving ESL services will continue to receive services through sheltered instruction.
AP/OnRamps	AP and OnRamps courses will be offered. The learning platform is decided on a course-by-course basis.
Dyslexia Services	Students will receive Dyslexia instruction through a combination of, but not limited to: live lessons, recorded and interactive lessons, individualized assignments, and independent practice through the Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia by the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. The combination of these services will amount to at least 45 minutes, 4 days per week of dyslexia intervention.
Special Education	Students will receive services as described in their Individualized Education Plan to the maximum extent possible. See Special Education section in this document for additional details.
Section 504	Students will receive services as described in their Section 504 plan to the maximum extent possible. Student plans will be reviewed and revised, as needed, in order to accommodate student needs.
Electives	The district will provide lessons for music, art, computer, and PE.
UIL Activities	If a student selects online learning, they are eligible for participation in extracurricular activities as long as they meet UIL and district requirements for participation.

Student Support Services

Special Education

Students eligible for Special Education Services will be provided a Free, Appropriate, Public Education according to each student's individualized education program (IEP). To the extent possible, IEP services will be provided through both in-person and virtual learning options.

SPECIALIZED SAFETY AND HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

- Students with disabilities will be provided visual supports, specialized instruction, and additional supervision, as necessary, to promote health and safety guidelines established by GISD, including hand washing, social distancing, moving safely from class to class, and eating and playing safely.
- In certain environments, additional Personal Protective Equipment such as face shields, sneeze guards, bibs, gloves, and/or air purifiers will be provided as necessary.

ONSITE

- Special Education Staff will provide the instructional and related services included in the student's IEP within the school building or in designated outdoor spaces.
- Campus Administrators will work with Special Education staff to create schedules that ensure IEP services are provided, while minimizing the number of students each staff member serves.
- Shared spaces utilized for Special Education services will include specialized safety protocols such as visual signage, barriers, and/or strategically spaced student and staff seating, as necessary, to align with social distancing guidelines.
- Speech and Related Service providers will create schedules in collaboration with campus administration to ensure students remain with peers in their assigned classrooms as often as possible.
- To the extent possible, Speech and Related Services staff will be assigned to campuses across the district to minimize the number of campuses, students, and teachers that are served by a single provider.
- Special Services staff members will be provided with clear face shields to be utilized during instruction and therapy sessions.

ONSITE Continued

- Individual materials will be provided to each student whenever possible to minimize student contact with shared materials. Disinfecting protocols will be followed for materials that may be used by more than one student during the day.
- Student Individualized Education Programs will be reviewed and revised as necessary through IEP Amendment or an ARD Committee Meeting.

ONLINE

- Special Education Teachers will collaborate with General Education Teachers to ensure instruction and assignments are appropriately accommodated and/or individualized for each student.
- Special Education Teachers will provide individualized instruction as indicated in each student's IEP in accordance with GISD's Online Learning Plan.
- Speech and Related Service Providers will implement IEP services through various ways that may include, but are not limited to: teletherapy, interactive lessons, live lessons, parent consultation, and/or individualized lessons completed with provider support.
- Certain service providers may require verbal and/or written consent to provide teletherapy services.
- Special Education Providers will regularly monitor and document student participation and progress in virtual instruction and therapy.
- Special Education Teachers and Providers will provide additional strategies, supports, and instructional opportunities to students who are not making adequate progress.
- When additional supports are not sufficient in meeting student needs, teachers and providers will request an ARD committee meeting. A parent may also request an ARD committee meeting at any time.
- Student Individualized Education Programs will be reviewed and revised as necessary through IEP Amendment or an ARD Committee Meeting in order to address student needs associated with virtual instruction.

After School Programs

Gonzales ISD is proud to offer a valuable and enriching afterschool program. The **ACE (Afterschool Centers on Education)** program is available for students at each elementary, intermediate and middle school campus with possible in-person and/or virtual programming for students participating in onsite learning and a virtual option for any interested students. Tutorial and family support services will be offered to students who are part of the ACE program. Onsite programs will follow GISD safety protocols and regulations.

Child Nutrition

Gonzales ISD will offer a nutritious FREE breakfast and lunch each school day under CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) to ALL of our ONSITE students. Due to Covid restrictions ONSITE meals may be served in the classroom, lunch room or alternate school locations. Parents of OFFSITE students who would like to pick up meals for their children must contact the Cafeteria Manager of their child's school to schedule a meal pickup time. Meals will be distributed as breakfast and lunch pairs for one day or multiple days, similar to curbside distribution utilized from March to July 2020. Once the student has been verified as an OFFSITE student and a meal pickup plan has been worked out with the Cafeteria Manager, meal pickup will be at the student's school cafeteria back door (ring back door bell). Meal pickup each time must be completed no later than 1:30 pm. Our staff will keep a list of students whose parents will be picking up meals. Components of meals being picked up will either be shelf-stable or cold. Parents are responsible for reheating items needing reheating and storing cold items needing to be refrigerated. OFF-SITE meals are only for enrolled GISD OFFSITE students.

Counseling Services

GISD counselors will work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure equity, access and success of all students whether onsite or online counseling is offered to our students. Counselors will focus on student requests, check ins, and follow ups on students they are concerned about. They will also continue to support and incorporate aligned Social Emotional Learning lessons and support teachers with these efforts.

DRAFT 7.31.20

Transportation

Gonzales ISD covers 536 square miles, We provide bus transportation to more than 1,000 students each day on nearly 19 unique bus routes. We will continue to offer transportation for the 2020-21 school year; however, some capacity limitations may exist.

A Final Thought

GISD Parents, guardians, employees, and students have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and teamwork during these unprecedented times. This whole experience is in no way ideal, but, together, our community will do our best to put safety first and foremost. Through communication, teamwork, and flexibility, GISD will navigate the new normal. Many Tribes. One Nation. Meeting people where they are.