

July 28, 2020

# **BORGER ISD 2020-2021**

## **SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION**

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Borger ISD is excited to welcome everyone back to school in August. Guidance from TEA will be followed by Borger ISD as we plan for and implement the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. Please check this document often for updates.

The District is 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 BISD 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: [communications@borgerisd.net](mailto:communications@borgerisd.net) . The district will respond via email.

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

## Key Details

Borger ISD plans to reopen to provide face-to-face instruction beginning on August 17, 2020. Remote learning option will also be available. ***Remote learning will not be the same type of remote instruction provided during the Spring School Closure. The requirements for remote learning are significantly more demanding on student's daily participation and completion of work at home, as compared to this past spring.***

## School Year Calendar and School Time Changes

- [District Calendar](#)
- School hours:

Campus	First Bell	End Time
Borger High School	8:15	3:50
Borger Middle School	8:10	3:45
Borger Intermediate School	8:10	3:45
Crockett Elementary	8:05	3:40
Gateway Elementary	8:05	3:40
Paul Belton Elementary		
Kindergarten	7:55	3:30
Pre-Kindergarten	7:35	3:10

## Learning Options

Borger ISD families will select from two options for their children.

**OPTION 1:** Full-time, face-to-face instruction on campus with increased hygiene and disinfection protocols

**OPTION 2:** Remote instruction at home using a district device, if needed, or a personal device

**Remote learning will be significantly different than during the Spring 2020 Covid-19 Closure.**

- ❖ Learning will be primarily self-paced through Google Classroom with some periodic live interaction with teachers required.
- ❖ Daily engagement, as per the teacher's assignments, will be required for daily attendance
- ❖ Engagement, although self-paced, will be equivalent to direct content work that a student would be engaged in over a normal school year
  - PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade – 180 minutes (3 hours)

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- 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade – 240 minutes (4 hours)
- ❖ Students will be required to complete all activities, assignments, quizzes, and tests the same as face-to-face students. Details on quiz and test administration is being developed.
- ❖ Teachers will be available for student support.
- ❖ Feedback will be provided at least weekly.
- ❖ Grading policies will be consistent with those used before COVID for on campus assignments.

## Guidelines for 2020-21 School Year

### Registration:

All parents will be required to choose either remote or in-person on campus instruction. Applications will become available August 3<sup>rd</sup> online and through the mail and email. Parents will be asked to make a firm commitment to remote or in person instruction for schools to staff accordingly.

**Forms should be returned to the campus in person or through mail. FORMS ARE DUE AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### Remote Learning Considerations:

Remote school is a fluid option. At the beginning of the school year there will be a 2-week grace period. Families will be able to make one change to their learning option up until August 28<sup>th</sup>. After the grace period, once the remote or in person option is chosen, the student must remain with that option until the end of that six- week grading period. Parents must inform the campus of the student's remote or in-person attendance by the deadlines listed below. The form can be obtained from your campus.

If a student is assigned to remote learning due to illness, he/she may return to face-to-face instruction when wellness criteria are met. Please contact the school nurse or principal.

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.

Grading Period	Notification Deadline
Beginning of school change	August 28, 2020
Second	September 25, 2020
Third	November 6, 2020
Fourth	January 8, 2021
Fifth	February 26, 2021
Sixth	April 16, 2021

### **Extracurricular Considerations**

Students choosing to receive remote learning online **will be able** to participate in the following UIL activities. If families choose the online learning option with UIL participation in one of the following activities, they **will need** to provide transportation for their student to school for these classes and for the scheduled practices required for UIL participation.

- Athletics including Cheerleading
- Band
- Choir
- Academics
- Debate
- Theatre
- Art
- Graphic Design
- Agriculture

### **CTE Courses**

Students wanting to take the following CTE courses must commit to face-to-face instruction for these courses as remote online learning will not be available for the following CTE courses.

- Intro to Culinary Arts
- Culinary Arts
- Advanced Culinary Arts
- Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness
- Video Game Design
- Robotics
- Principles of Technology
- Engineering Math
- Law Enforcement 1
- Forensics
- Computer Programming 1
- Health Science
- Health Science Practicum
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Auto Basics
- Advanced Auto Tech
- Cosmetology
- Welding
- I & E
- Process Tech
- Swine Management
- Horticulture
- Landscape Design
- Professional Standards of Agriculture
- Livestock Production
- Small Animal Management
- Equine Science
- Advanced Animal Science
- Agronomy
- Graphic Design
- Advanced Graphic Design

### **Technology:**

The district is procuring for devices all students PK-12. Chromebooks (grades 2-12) or IPADS (PK-1) will be available for checkout soon. Information concerning technology use and distribution will be provided to parents by their child's home campus.

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

- Developing instructional models that support both in-person and remote learning
- Providing a Chromebook/iPad for all students in grades PreK-12
- Working to provide a temporary solution for broadband internet for those students who do not have internet service at home by increasing WIFI access from school parking lots.

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

- Monitoring the potential impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Hutchinson county and follow guidance provided by local health organizations
- Increasing the use of preventive antimicrobial misting system at all facilities and on buses to disinfect thoroughly and widely. The District also disinfects locker rooms, weight rooms, and equipment cages.
- Hand sanitizer stations located at all facility entrances.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray available for all classrooms.
- Measure temperatures and screen for symptoms and exposure to COVID-19 of visitors as they check in at campus offices.
- Students and staff will be expected to utilize the district's self-care questionnaire.
- Face coverings are mandated *at this time* by the Governor's order ([Executive Order GA 29](#)) for ages 10 and older and staff.
- Social distancing (6 feet or 2 arm's length) enforced when possible.
- Handwashing and/or hand sanitizing required frequently throughout the day. Proper self-care habits will be taught.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Questions

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

We will implement increased signage around campuses promoting disease mitigation strategies, increased cleaning, and sanitation practices, as well as frequent reminders of hand hygiene and social distancing. BISD will comply with all health and safety mandates established by the health department and Texas Education Agency. Classrooms will be arranged to maximize space between students.

We encourage students and staff to provide their own PPE. However, to get school started, with the support of the State, BISD has secured the following:

Item	Total
Student Size Disposable Face Masks	7,243
Adult Size Disposable Face Masks	16,900
Student Size Re-Usable Masks	1,676
Adult Size Re-Usable Masks	4,359
Gloves	13,974
Thermometers	220
Hand Sanitizer	284 gallons
Adult Face Shields	411

#### 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 ages 10 and older and staff. Children younger than 10 are not required to wear a mask but may do so if they or their parents choose. Masks will be available. However, we cannot guarantee 6-foot social distancing on our district transportation. Therefore, all students will be required to wear masks on school busses.

#### 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 6 feet apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained, such as class change times, lunch, etc. students will be required to wear face coverings as per Executive Order GA 29.

Signage reminding students and staff about handwashing, 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 remote school? What if multiple classrooms and students/staff are impacted?**

When notification of a possible exposure occurs, BISD, 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 remote 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.

- Visits to school should be restricted only to reasons essential to school operations.
- All visitors must have a scheduled appointment.
- All visitors required to wear masks and complete a temperature check and screening for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure when reporting to office.
- All visitors must utilize hand sanitizing stations upon entry.
- Parents will be required to drop off students at designated drop off locations.
- Students may bring lunch, but no drop-off or delivery of lunch allowed.
- No visitors will be allowed to eat with students.
- 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. 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. 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. We believe we will be able to provide instruction to students in whichever format their families choose. Keep in mind, BISD 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.

- District Social Worker
  - Chapin Renshaw—chapin.renshaw@borgerisd.net
- Borger High School
  - Gina Peralez—gina.peralez@borgerisd.net
  - Stacy Howes—stacy.howes@borgerisd.net
- Borger Middle School and Borger Intermediate School
  - Danielle Watson—danielle.watson@borgerisd.net
- Crockett Elementary School
  - Tabatha Smith—tabatha.smith@borgerisd.net
- Gateway Elementary School and Paul Belton Elementary School
  - Crystal Morales—crystal.morales@borgerisd.net

**3. Will we still have open house, assemblies, or concerts?**

Currently, we are considering a New Year’s Party and Open House with escorts and social distancing. Large events will occur in a remote setting or in small in-person gatherings that comply with CDC guidelines.

**4. Will buses run?**

Yes, transportation will continue for eligible regular bus route students. However, we are asking parents to drop-off students, carpool, or walk with their student to school if possible.

**5. 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 twice daily. Students will be required to wear masks.

**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?**

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.

**8. Will students remain enrolled at their school if they choose remote school?**

Yes, students will remain enrolled.

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

We are looking into the guidelines. There is a possibility that we may be able to provide meals.

**10. Are immunizations required for remote school?**

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

**11. How will remote school 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, and instruction will be led by a teacher via Google Classroom. In the spring last year, students' assignments were limited. Remote school this year will be a full course load of instruction and assignments that is 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, daily communication with teacher and daily time commitment. Teachers delivering remote instruction will receive additional training and support in digital teaching strategies and using online curriculum. Both in-person and remote learning will utilize the same grading system.

**12. 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/EOC/TELPAS, etc.) testing. All students will also participate in any local assessments including six weeks tests, quizzes, and other diagnostic assessments. We are currently exploring how to administer some assessments remotely.

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

No, packets will not be considered instruction as we move into the 2020-2021 school year.

**14. 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.

**15. Under the remote 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 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. In the example above, the student would be counted absent Tuesday-Friday.

**16. Will the 90% minimum student attendance for class credit rule 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 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.

**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 remotely.