

# ANTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Anton ISD Reopening 2020-2021

**Anton ISD teachers and staff are excited to welcome everyone back to school in August, whether we see students in-person or virtually. The District is working to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all. See below for current information regarding plans for reopening school.**

**\*\*Please note that details are subject to change based on guidelines from local, state, and federal authorities. This is a very fluid and ever-changing situation. As the district receives information, we will send communication to the parents and students.**

### Key Details

#### Two Learning Options for Students

Anton ISD families will select from two options for their children. We will communicate the process for making the choice soon.

**Option 1:** Full-time in-person on campus, with heightened hygiene and disinfecting protocols.

**Option 2:** Full-time virtual learning with district-provided technology as needed.

### School Year Calendar and School Minute Change

Schools are being guided by Texas Education Agency (TEA) to build in additional days to school calendar's to accommodate any disruptions due to weather or COVID-19. This will be accomplished at AISD by adding minutes to each day of instruction and possibly altering the school calendar to provide added instructional days. By doing this, AISD can ensure we have 15+ days for closures if necessary.

The new school hours will from 7:50 to 3:50 (That is an additional 15 minutes)

The Anton ISD Board of Trustees may adopt a new calendar on July 14

Parents and staffed will be informed of any changes in the calendar when it happens.

### Efforts Underway for the New Year

- Providing a tablet or Chromebook for virtual classroom students.
- Working to provide a temporary solution for broadband internet for those students that do not have internet at home.
- Developing instructional models that support virtual learning.
- Continuing to closely monitor the potential impact of Corona virus (COVID-19).

### Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions

## **General Questions**

**If I choose one option of learning and want to change the choice later in the year, can I make the switch?**

Yes, virtual school is a fluid option that can be accessed at any time. It is **HIGHLY** recommended that students only make a change at the end of a grading period, if possible. Changing options may have a negative impact on a student's ability to receive credit, especially in elective courses.

**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 with TEA and local health authorities to ensure the safety of our students. We believe we will be able to provide instruction to students whichever format their families choose. Keep in mind that AISD will comply with all mandates regarding social/physical distancing as well as health and hygiene protocols.

**How will you address social, emotional, or mental health concerns?**

Lauren Josselet, AISD Counselor, will be available to support students academically, socially, and emotionally, and can provide mental health resources for families who may be struggling emotionally.

**Will we 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 the CDC, state, and local guidelines.

**Will we have athletic events?**

At this time, any athletic events will comply with state, TEA, and UIL guidelines.

## **In-Person School**

**What precautions will be in place on campus?**

We will implement increased signage around campus promoting disease mitigation strategies, increased cleaning and sanitation practices, as well as frequent reminders of hand hygiene and social distancing. Masks will be recommended and encouraged for staff and students. AISD will comply with all health and safety recommendations established by the health department and TEA. Classrooms will be arranged to maximize space between students.

**Will students and staff be required to wear masks?**

Face coverings are not mandated at this time, but they are encouraged. Students will need to provide their own masks should they choose to wear one.

**Will buses**

Yes, transportation will continue to be provided for all who qualify. Students will be instructed with specific safety protocols.

**Will CDC social distancing guideline 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 ft. apart. When social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained, such as class change times, students will be encouraged to wear face masks.

Signage reminding students and staff about hand washing, social distancing, and infection prevention will be posted throughout school facilities.

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

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

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

We are awaiting guidance from TEA on recess activities. However we anticipate elementary students will have recess time with restrictions that reinforce social distancing.

**Virtual School****Will students remain enrolled at their school if they choose virtual school?**

Yes, students will remain enrolled at their school.

**Will daily attendance count for students in virtual school?**

Yes, students will be counted daily for elementary. Junior High and High School students will be counted for each class. The compulsory attendance law remains in effect for virtual school students. Students will risk losing credit for excessive absences.

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

Options are being explored for providing meals to students who select virtual school. There are currently no state or federal regulations that allow districts to serve meals to students who are not present on campus, although guidelines are expected in the near future.

**Are immunizations required for virtual school?**

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

**How will virtual school be different from at-home learning during the closure last spring?**

**Students who select virtual school will be required to attend and participate in class daily during regular school hours, and instruction will be led by the teacher. In the spring last year, students' assignments were limited. Virtual school this year will be a full course load of instruction and assignments that are equivalent to what students who are attending school in-person will be required to complete. Teachers delivering virtual instruction will receive additional training and support in digital teaching strategies and using online curriculum.**

**Who will be accountable for the State assessments?**

**Students who participate in both in-person and virtual learning will be required to participate in state testing (STAAR/EOC/TELPAS, etc.)**