DEAR IDEA FAMILIES,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate a challenging and uncertain return to school this year.

While this First Day of School is a little different from those in the past, I want you to know just how excited we are that you are here with us at IDEA. To all of our returning families, welcome back! To all of you starting your first day ever with us, welcome to IDEA!

As a fellow parent of an IDEA student, I am sure we all share many of the same concerns as our children prepare to return to school. As a mother first and foremost, I can assure you our plans for the school year were thought of with the best interest of our children in mind.

You may be wondering what it’s going to look like for your child to start the year learning online. Well, we are prepared to make even stronger virtual connections this year with our new 1:1 program. This program applies to those of you who are starting the school year in-person as well.

IDEA’s 1:1 technology program will give every scholar their own personal device. Our Pre-K and Kinder scholars will be receiving a Chromebook tablet, our 1st through 8th grade scholars will receive a Chromebook laptop and every college preparatory scholar will receive a Dell laptop. This means affording every scholar with a head start in a technology-first world where education goes beyond traditional teacher-driven lessons and continues outside of the traditional classroom.

Our virtual learning programs will be challenging, interactive, and collaborative. In addition, we will not overlook our scholars’ social and emotional development because school isn’t just about lessons and books—it’s about becoming good citizens and growing together as a community. Our counselors and social workers will continue supporting staff, students’, and parents’ mental health as we navigate through these challenging times.

While some things about this school year will be different, many of the things about IDEA will remain the same. We are more prepared than ever to provide the same commitment to our students through our dedicated teachers, rigorous, challenging coursework, and our high expectations for learning.

As we navigate the start of the school year in an ever-changing environment, I want to remind you that we are strongest when we work together. We are parents, neighbors, and friends who are committed to your child’s success on the road to and through college, and you are our most important partner in achieving that goal.

I thank each of you for choosing IDEA and hope you have a wonderful experience this school year. Stay safe and take care!

Warm regards,

LISA T. GARZA
Chief Schools Officer
IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITMENTS

Health & Safety: The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We are committed to ensuring our students are learning and growing in a safe environment each and every day.

Families Come First: We are strongest when we work together. We are committed to your child’s success on the road to and through college, and you are our most important.

College for All: Our mission is still College for All. IDEA Public Schools remains committed to each student’s success on the road to and through college. This means that we are prepared to provide our rigorous academic program online for every IDEA student to protect the health and safety of our communities.

Partnerships: IDEA is committed to partnering with local and state education and health agencies to develop suitable plans for the school year.

Staying Connected: We will use the Remind app, Facebook and personal phone calls to communicate with our families. We will communicate with you every step of the way, and we want you to do the same.

IDEA’S ATTENDANCE POLICY

IDEA Public Schools’ attendance goal is 97.5% average daily attendance (ADA). Attendance will be tracked by online engagements within Teams, in-person learning, or via the submission of instructional assignments. Attendance will be taken daily at 8:30 am in Texas and 8:45 am in Louisiana.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

We recognize the importance of keeping our families informed about important dates. One of the most important dates is the first day of school!

DISTANCE LEARNING DATES

As of July 28, IDEA Public Schools’ Back to School plans will remain the same with the majority of our students returning virtually. Those regions and their start dates are as follows:

August 6: Baton Rouge and New Orleans
August 10: Rio Grande Valley
August 11: Austin, San Antonio, and Tarrant County
August 13: Greater Houston
August 17: El Paso

IDEA Travis in the Permian Basin region will offer both in-person instruction and distance learning and begin instruction on August 11.

IN-PERSON DATES

As of July 28, we anticipate that families can opt to safely send their scholars to campus for in-person learning on the following dates:

August 11: Permian Basin (first day of school)
August 13: Greater Houston (first day of school)
August 17: El Paso, Rio Grande Valley, Tarrant County, and Southern Louisiana; is to be determined.
IDEA Public Schools remains committed to each student’s success on the road to and through college. This means that we are prepared to provide our rigorous academic program online and in-person for every IDEA student. Our promise is that all IDEA students will have access to excellent instruction from home or from school. Students will access daily lessons, collaborate with their teachers and peers, submit work, and receive feedback and grades using their school-issued computer or tablet.

**IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION FOR ALL GRADES**

In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, students will work with the same group of peers and only a few staff members in-person throughout the day. Students will now remain in the same classroom throughout the day. Students will be able to see all their teachers online through Microsoft TEAMS.

**DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ALL GRADES**

We are committed to providing engaging and joyful instruction for our students participating in distance learning. Students and teachers will work together online; students will be able to interact with their peers, access lessons and homework, and connect with their teachers to receive 1:1 support.

We also know that the pandemic causes stress for families, and we want distance learning to provide students with an environment to enjoy new challenges, strengthen friendships, and celebrate accomplishments.

Teachers will teach subjects to all of their assigned students at the same time, one time per day, using Microsoft TEAMS. Students in the classroom with the Math Teacher will engage using their computer or tablet, as will the other 3rd graders present at school. Third graders working from home will participate in the lesson via Microsoft TEAMS at the same time the teacher is teaching “live”, or will engage with the recorded lesson later in the day at a time that works best for their family.

**PRE-K – 2ND GRADE**

IDEA’s Pre-K – 2nd grade program will undoubtedly make learning fun and engaging, whether students are in class or online. We will give our youngest students a strong start on the road to and through college, as they learn foundational literacy, math, and science skills.

We are using important safety procedures to ensure that our youngest students are safe in our schools and will work with students and families to learn how to be safe while at school.

*For those students participating in in-person learning:*

1. Students and staff for Pre-K through 2nd grade will remain in their classrooms for instruction and transitions.
2. Students will be seated at their desks behind protective barrier due to social distancing and safety guidelines/policies
3. We are also keeping our students safe by ensuring no instructional materials or supplies are passed back and forth between students.
4. Teachers will wash their hands before entering a new classroom
5. Number of students in each classroom is reduced due to safety guidelines/policies

*For students participating in distance learning:*

1. Teacher will live stream and record instruction for students participating in Distance Learning via Teams to allow students to go back and view lesson if absent and/or unable to log in during scheduled group time
2. Parents will ensure students join live stream instruction during designated time
3. Students participating in Distance Learning will join live stream instruction via TEAMS during designated time to receive instruction
4. Students who are unable to attend during designated time will have access to recorded lesson via TEAMS

**STONG START INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL**

IDEA Public Schools remains committed to each student’s success on the road to and through college. This means that we are prepared to provide our rigorous academic program online and in-person for every IDEA student.
Students in 1st - 7th grade are expected to read at least 30 minutes a day. Students can read books using MyOn, the district e-book library, or any books that they have at home or through their local library. Once they complete a book, students are expected to take a comprehension quiz using the AR system.

The goal is for students to score 80% or higher on every quiz. Each grade level also has a word count target to achieve by the end of the year. We encourage students to become Royal Readers and read 1 million words in Academy and 2 million words in College Preparatory a year.

Both MyOn and AR can be accessed by logging in to Clever. To see videos about the AR Zone program, visit ideapublicschools.org/back2school2020/academic-information/.

### ACCELERATED READER (AR) ZONE CHART

#### WORD MASTER CRITERIA

- 1st Grade: **15,000** words
- 2nd Grade: **50,000** words
- 3rd Grade: **125,000** words
- 4th Grade: **225,000** words
- 5th Grade: **325,000** words

All grade levels must also have at least an 80% average accuracy.

- 6th Grade: **425,000** words
- 7th Grade: **425,000** words

All grade levels must also have at least an 80% average accuracy.

#### ROYAL READER CRITERIA

1st – 5th Grade: At least **1 million** words with at least 80% average accuracy.

6th – 7th Grade: At least **2 million** words with at least 80% average accuracy.

Students in 1st - 7th grade are expected to work on adaptive math software daily. They should spend 30 - 60 minutes daily on the software in addition to 90 - 120 minutes per week on Dreambox (1st-5th grade) or ST Math (6th-7th grade).

Students have weekly, quarterly, and yearly goals for this program to become Math Masters and Math Geniuses:

- **Dreambox**: To be a Math Master, students should complete at least six lessons per week, 50 lessons per quarter, and 200 lessons by the end of the year. To be a Math Genius, the goal is to complete 300 lessons by the end of the year.
- **ST Math**: To be a Math Master, students should complete 30 puzzles daily, 60 puzzles weekly, 500 puzzles quarterly and 2,000 puzzles by the end of the school year. To be a Math Genius, the goal is to complete 3,000 puzzles by the end of the year.

Both Dreambox and ST Math can be accessed in Clever. To see videos about the HotSpot program, visit ideapublicschools.org/back2school2020/academic-information/.

Students in 1st - 7th grade are expected to read at least 30 minutes a day. Students can read books using MyOn, the district e-book library, or any books that they have at home or through their local library. Once they complete a book, students are expected to take a comprehension quiz using the AR system.

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IDEA is offering families of students in our special programs the same option of in-person or online learning with the same commitment to academic rigor and student engagement.

Part of our plan to support students who may have difficulty transitioning back to school virtually or in person includes contacting parents before school begins and creating individualized transition plans to prepare students for return to school. These plans could include resources such as:

- Social stories
- Practicing wearing masks
- Teacher welcome videos

**SUPPORT SCHEDULE**

During distance learning in Spring 2020, we saw success with our Special Education teachers providing IEP content mastery by creating their own Teams channel to have students log on for their Individualized Education Program (IEP) support minutes with their Special Education teacher to pre-teach or re-teach content during non-core instructional blocks. For “in class” support minutes, the Special Education teacher will join the ELA and Math Teams channels during those lessons to help provide support for students whose IEP requires it. All teachers will continue to get their students’ IEP instructional accommodations to ensure they are implemented effectively.

**SPEECH, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT), AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES**

IDEA will continue our investment in the Presence Learning Platform for our virtual Speech and OT services and provide these services per IEP. We will provide all other services virtually as appropriate. If a student is unable to access their IEP supports virtually, the ARD/IEP committee may determine when in-person service is needed.

**SAFETY MEASURES FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**

We understand the unique challenges that we may encounter in implementing all safety protocols for students with more significant disabilities. Our Special Program team has worked closely with Operations to order additional PPE for RISE students (face mask and shields) and for RISE staff (face mask and face shield, gloves, eyewear, gowns).

**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT**

We recognize that the social and emotional toll of living and learning during a pandemic can be difficult for students and families. IDEA is committed to the physical and emotional safety and well-being for all students and are proudly implementing a social emotional learning curriculum titled [Move This World](https://www.idea.org/movethisworld).

Move This World is part of the daily schedule for all students grades Pre-K-12 both online and through in-person instruction. This curriculum will help teach students the skills such as identifying and expressing emotions, empathy and social awareness, responsible decision making, self-management and relationship skills.

In addition to the curriculum, each campus has an Academic Counselor that is responsible to support the social emotional needs of students and families. They will work with students in-person and online and are available to help connect families to community resources when needed.

For more information about social and emotional support for IDEA students and families, please visit our [webpage](https://www.idea.org).
IDEA Public Schools is thrilled to announce that we are strengthening our commitment to support students on the path to and through college by providing personal technology devices to all scholars enrolled at IDEA Pre-K through 12.

Every IDEA scholar will be better prepared for college through the integration of 1:1 technology across our academic program. We commit to a 1:1 approach that:

- Builds strong technology literacy
- Significantly increases the volume of reading and writing
- Fosters greater opportunities for learning and creativity

**DOES IT MATTER IF STUDENTS RECEIVE DISTANCE LEARNING OR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION?**

No. Whether families choose to send your child to school physically or you choose to engage in online learning, this new technology device will help facilitate their learning experience.

**WHAT TECHNOLOGY WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE?**

- **Grades Pre-K – Kinder:** Chromebook tablet with case and stylus pen
- **Grades 1st – 8th:** Chromebook
- **Grades 9th – 12th:** Dell Latitude Windows Laptop

**WHEN WILL THEY RECEIVE THEIR TECHNOLOGY?**

Families will be notified by their campus about plans to receive technology before the school year begins.

**HOW DO STUDENTS LOG INTO THEIR DEVICE?**

Students will use their IDEA Student Account username and password to access their device. Click on the link below for the appropriate device.

- Tablet Getting Started Guide
- Chromebook Getting Started Guide
- Windows Laptop Getting Started Guide

**AFTER RECEIVING THE DEVICE, WHAT LOGIN INFORMATION DO WE USE TO START DISTANCE LEARNING?**

Login to Teams at: [https://teams.microsoft.com/](https://teams.microsoft.com/)

Username: Student ID @ideastudent.org
Password: IdeaMMDDYY

For more information about IDEA’s 1:1 Technology Program and Technical support, please visit [https://ideapublicschools.org/learningtech/](https://ideapublicschools.org/learningtech/).
The safety, health, and well-being of every IDEA scholar is always our top priority. As we gear up for another great year of learning, in light of COVID-19, IDEA has developed a robust assortment of new safety and health protocols based on guidance from the CDC and state health departments to protect staff and students as they return to their respective campuses.

Please note that details may change as additional requirements are released.

**NEW SAFETY MEASURES AS OF AUGUST 4 FOR INDIVIDUALS ON CAMPUS:**

1. All students and staff will complete a health screening before being admitted to the school or bus each day. Screenings may also occur midday.
2. Student arrival and dismissal will be staggered to limit large group gatherings. Parents/guardians will receive arrival and dismissal schedules to limit the number of students arriving to campus at one time. Points of entry (POE) will be limited and marked to traffic.
3. All students and staff will wear face masks while on campus.
4. Social distancing strategies: signage and markers will be installed across classrooms, hallways, and entrances to guide students and staff on how to navigate throughout buildings.
5. Classes will be arranged to maintain social distancing during instruction. Desks will all face forward and be spaced out according to recommended social distance guidelines.
6. Students and staff will remain in the same classroom for instruction. No instructional materials or supplies are passed back and forth between students.
7. Handwashing time will be built into the daily schedule and hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom. Schedules will allow for students to practice hand hygiene at the following times at minimum: upon entering the building, before and after every meal, and after restroom use.
8. Disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces will be conducted throughout the school day, this includes wiping down any PE or recess equipment before the next class uses them and routinely cleaning classroom desks, handles, and other touched surfaces cleaned with proper disinfectant.
9. Meals will be consumed in the classroom to minimize transitions and potential exposure.
10. Students and staff who are showing signs of illness will be tracked and excluded from attendance. If showing symptoms, students and staff will be sent home and asked not to return until symptom-free for 72 hours. Students showing symptoms on campus will wait in a chaperoned room, separate from other students until picked up by a parent or someone pre-authorized to pick up the child.
BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We know how important physical activity and brain breaks are for students. Students will have regular breaks throughout the day and a daily Physical Education (PE) activity that will be done in class. After a couple of weeks, schools will identify opportunities for some of those activities to move outside in a safe manner. Outdoor recess will also be incorporated when possible.

All other after-school activities (tutoring, after-school clubs, and 21st century) will take place virtually for Quarter 1. The district will reassess what we will do for Quarter 2.

UNIFORMS

Color-coded school uniforms help students focus on what matters most at school—learning!

We believe that school uniforms have a beneficial impact on students’ self-esteem, attendance, graduation rates, and discipline. Uniforms eliminate unnecessary distractions (such as who has the coolest tennis shoes) and ensure students’ focus remains on academic success. Uniforms are an important part of the IDEA culture.

IDEA scholars who are engaged in distance learning and attending school online should wear their branded IDEA polo shirt Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, scholars may wear a t-shirt with the college of their choice.

To access your student’s regional uniform guide, please visit ideapublicschools.org/back2school2020/.

PPE MASKS

Scholars will be provided two masks by their campus that must be worn while on campus. Scholars may also choose to bring a personal mask from home as long as there is no inappropriate language or symbolism displayed.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Texas and Louisiana state law requires students attending school in person to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. Getting your child vaccinated protects your child’s health and that of the community. If necessary, please make an appointment to get your child vaccinated before the first day of school. Remember, students cannot attend school without the appropriate documentation for the required vaccines.

Be sure your child is up to date on all immunizations.
## TEXAS IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

This chart summarizes the vaccine requirements incorporated in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 25 Health Services, §97.71. This document is not intended as a substitute for the TAC, which has other provisions and details. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is granted authority to set immunization requirements by the Texas Education Code, Chapter 38.

### IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a public or private elementary or secondary school in Texas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Required</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Doses Required/By Grade Level</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Number of Doses Required/By Grade Level</td>
<td>Grades K - 6th</td>
<td>Grades 7th-8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Required</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)/Rot.Nav.</td>
<td>3 doses primary series and 1 booster dose of Tdap</td>
<td>For K - 6th grade: 3 doses of DTPa/Td for children 1 dose must have been received on or after the 4th birthday. However, 4 doses must meet the requirement if the 4th dose was received on or after the 6th birthday. For students aged 7 years and older; 3 doses must meet the requirement if one dose was received on or after the 6th birthday. For 7th grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required if at least 5 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. For 8th - 12th grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required if 10 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>4 doses or 3 doses</td>
<td>For K - 12th grade: 4 doses of polio; 1 dose must be received on or after the 4th birthday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>For K - 12th grade: 2 doses are required, with the 1st dose received on or after the 1st birthday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>For students aged 11 - 15 years; 2 doses must meet the requirement if adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) was received. Doses (10 mcg/1.0 ml) and type of vaccine (Recombivax) must be clearly documented. If Recombivax was not the vaccine received, 3 doses are required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>For K - 12th grade: 2 doses are required, with the 1st dose received on or after the 1st birthday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal (MCV4)</td>
<td>1 dose</td>
<td>For 9th - 12th grade: 1 dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is required on or after the student’s 11th birthday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>For K - 12th grade: 2 doses are required, with the 1st dose received on or after the 1st birthday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Blended area indicates that the vaccine is not required for the respective grade.

**2** Notes on the back page, please turn over.

Rev. 03/2020

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## LOUISIANA IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

### Louisiana School Immunization Entry Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine type</th>
<th>Doses required for entry into Kindergarten - 12th grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria Tetanus Acellular Pertussis vaccine (DTaP)</td>
<td>6 doses in student record at kindergarten and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poliovirus vaccine (IPV)</td>
<td>4 doses in student record at kindergarten entry and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine (MMR)</td>
<td>2 doses in student record at kindergarten entry and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B vaccine (HePb)</td>
<td>3 doses in student record at kindergarten entry and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella vaccine (VAR)</td>
<td>2 doses in student record at kindergarten entry and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis vaccine (Tdap)</td>
<td>1 dose in student record at 6th grade entry and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter; or starting with any student 11 years of age in any grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal vaccine (MenACWVY)</td>
<td>1 dose in student record at 6th grade entry and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter; through the 10th grade; or starting with any student 11 years of age in any grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 doses in student record at 11th grade entry and for entry into all subsequent grades thereafter; or starting with any student 16 years of age in any grade (NEW FSP 2018)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Requirements are in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 17:170 and Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 51, Section l-701.

2 Entry requirement exception for students who are four years of age when entering kindergarten at start of school year. To attend kindergarten in Louisiana, students must be five years old by September 30 each school year. Therefore, there are instances where a student is still four years old when entering kindergarten. In those instances, the four-year-old student may be admitted into kindergarten so long as a parent/guardian presents a record indicating that the student is in progress of receiving the required vaccinations. In these instances, follow-up from school staff must be provided for compliance with the above requirements.

3 Those students who received their fourth dose of DTaP at age four or older do not need a fifth dose on record.

4 Those students who received their third dose of IPV at age 4 or older do not need a fourth dose on record.

Note: Students can participate in school without the required immunizations listed above if either of the following are presented: 1) a written statement from a physician stating that the procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons; or 2) written dissent from the parent/guardian.

Revised October 2019
Students who eat balanced, nutritious meals are more likely to have better focus, an improved mood, and higher academic performance. As our communities feel the economic impact of the pandemic, it is now more important than ever to provide high quality, healthy meals to all children in a safe manner.

CAMPUS MEALS
Although we will provide healthy and delicious meals for our scholars, parents can also pack breakfast and/or lunch for the child(ren) that can be consumed at the same time as other students are having their meals.

- Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. inside the classroom.
- Lunch hours vary from 10 a.m. – 1:40 p.m. depending on the student’s schedule and will also be served in the classroom.

CURBSIDE PICKUP
For students participating in distance learning, we will offer a nutritious curbside meal option at their campus. Hours may vary by campus.

HOW WILL THIS WORK?

- Parent/Guardian drives through school parking lot with proof of child(ren) documentation in hand
- IDEA staff members will ask for you to hold up proof so that staff members can see without making physical contact with documentation
- After a staff member verifies the documents, staff members will verify the number of meals needed
- Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Staff will then provide parent/guardian with the number of meals that match proof of documentation
- To see your child(ren)’s monthly CNP menu, please visit https://ideapublicschools.org/parents/cnp/.

To reduce the potential spread of COVID-19, IDEA Public Schools will be closed campuses. IDEA Public Schools will limit visits to essential visitors only and limit the number of visitors allowed on campus at one time.

ESSENTIAL VISITORS ARE LIMITED TO:

- Therapists who cannot provide therapy services virtually
- Child Protective Services (CPS) or emergency services.
- Contracted maintenance completing repairs that cannot be completed before or after school hours.
- Vendors who cannot deliver before or after school hours.

PARENT VISITORS:

- Parent visits or observations will not be permitted for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Exceptions to parent visits must be requested through campus principal, scheduled in advance, and parents who go to a classroom to observe must be accompanied by lead team member and are not permitted to interact with any students. They must follow all required health and safety procedures while on campus.
- Parents are also not allowed to come to campus to eat lunch with their child during the first semester as children will be eating in classrooms while social distancing.
- Parent meetings with 5 or more attendees will not be allowed on-campus for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year and should be hosted virtually.
IDEA Public Schools is offering transportation for the following regions and campuses for the 2020-21 school year:

- Greater Houston
- Permian Basin
- Rio Grande Valley
- Southern Louisiana
- IDEA Montopolis (Austin)

Our Transportation Department’s top priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and communities. We have updated our school transportation related guidelines to help provide direction to students, parents, and staff as we prepare for a Strong Start this August.

This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have updated our bus transportation policies for the safety of our Team & Family.

WHEN LOADING THE BUS, STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO:

1. Social distance by sitting solo in an assigned seat in the area closest to the window with only one exception is allowing students who live in the same household to sit together
2. Wear a PPE mask before entering the bus
3. Use provided hand sanitizer
4. Have a temperature screening that results in a temperature not exceeding 100.4 in order to board the bus

WHEN EXITING THE BUS, STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO:

1. Unload the bus in an orderly fashion while maintaining social distancing
2. Use provided hand sanitizer
3. Follow the pathway to enter the building and go straight to classroom as they will not need to be temperature screen again.

“HERE COMES THE BUS” APPLICATION

When your children scan their bus pass, this application allows you to see, in real-time, where your child’s bus is and when and where your child got on or off. This easy-to-use technology is free, simply download the “Here Comes the Bus” application on your smartphone, create a secure account, add your children, and you’re all set!

IDEA’s school code for Texas is 83127
IDEA’s school code for Louisiana is 87857

CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION PAGES

IDEA Public Schools is committed to ensuring the safe transportation of your child to and from school. Our parents and families play an important role in helping us make this happen. We ask that you click the link below and carefully review all of the information on this page. Please contact your Campus Transportation Manager if you have any questions regarding our transportation services.

For more information, please visit our transportation page at [https://ideapublicschools.org/parents/transportation/](https://ideapublicschools.org/parents/transportation/)
We know family relationships are built on two-way communication and trust. In an effort to develop and maintain strong relationships with parents, we are streamlining the number of platforms parents are required to maintain to get the information they need to stay informed and help their child be successful.

Effective and consistent communication is important so that you are well-informed of campus and national news. Below is information on one of our most frequently used communications channels.

**REMINd**

Remind is a text messaging app that allows the school to communicate with you and for you to use to communicate with the school. We utilize this app between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. We are committed to a 24 hour response rate. Please use this app to call or text the campus. Below are links to parent resources to get set up.


**PARENT WEEKLY**

IDEA Public Schools is committed to keeping our parents up to date regarding important announcements, activities, and events on their children’s campuses. The Parent Weekly is one of the key communications vehicles we use to accomplish this goal.

Your campus will provide you a Parent Weekly once the 2020-21 school year begins! Please be sure to read it each week and contact your campus with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you have on the newsletter content.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Follow us on social media! To remain up-to-date on IDEA’s latest and greatest news, we encourage you to follow us on our national Facebook and Instagram pages. We also encourage you to follow your campus’ Facebook for specific campus related news and highlights.

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

To help our IDEA families to get more comfortable with the IDEA culture and our frequently used terms, we have created this IDEA Glossary of Terms sheet! In no time, you will be using these terms on your campus and with your scholar!