



IDEA Families – As of August 3, IDEA Public Schools in the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, El Paso, Tarrant County, and Austin will be taking advantage of the grace period the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is offering schools by starting the year virtually.

We will work with parents one on one to ensure they have the resources needed for school.

IDEA Greater Houston and IDEA Travis in Midland, Texas, will be starting the year offering parent choice for either online or in-person learning.

In Southern Louisiana, our schools will be starting the year virtually on August 6.

STRONG 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.

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. ACADEMICS

STRONG START INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL

For those students participating in in-person learning:

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

For students participating in distance learning:

- 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
- Parents will ensure students join live stream instruction during designated time
- Students participating in Distance Learning will join live stream instruction via TEAMS during designated time to receive instruction
- Students who are unable to attend during designated time will have access to recorded lesson via TEAMS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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 for RISE students includes contacting parents before school begins and creating individualized transition plans to prepare students for return to school. We plan to review resources such as:

- Social stories
- Practicing wearing masks
- Informative videos

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

During distance learning in Spring 2020, we saw success with our Special Education teachers providing English Language Arts (ELA)/ Math 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 get some pre-teach or re-teach of ELA and Math content during non-core instructional blocks.



For “in class” support minutes, the Special Education teacher should plan to join the ELA and Math Teams channels during those lessons to help provide support for students whose IEP requires it. Scheduling these students in the right homerooms continues to be critical.

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).

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.

1:1 Technology

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/>

Username: Student ID# @ideastudent.org Password: IdeaMMDDYY

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

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:

- All students and staff will complete a health screening before being admitted to the school or bus each day. Screenings may also occur midday.
- 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.
- All students and staff will wear face masks while on campus.
- 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.
- 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.
- Students and staff will remain in the same classroom for instruction. No instructional materials or supplies are passed back and forth between students.
- 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.
- 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.
- Meals will be consumed in the classroom to minimize transitions and potential exposure.
- 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 students until picked up by a parent or someone preauthorized to pick up the child.



from other

COVID-19 PREVENTION, MITIGATION, AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES

As we plan for returning to school at IDEA Public Schools, we recognize that this will be an unusual school year, but we remain committed to supporting your scholar's learning, as well as his or her safety.

Below, we have outlined the procedures our campuses will have in place to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to respond if a positive case is identified. We hope this transparency helps you to make a decision about your student's on-campus attendance when in-person options are available at your school.

Prevention

To prevent COVID-positive individuals from entering our campuses, your student's school will have the following COVID-19 symptom screening procedures in place:

All students and staff will be required to self-screen daily before they leave their homes.

If students or staff are showing any signs of illness, they should stay home and seek direction from their medical provider.

If students or staff have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case, they should stay home, notify the school (families should notify the campus Health Aide, staff should notify their manager and Regional HR Director) and seek direction from their medical provider.

All students, staff and visitors will be required to undergo a health screen upon arrival. The screening procedure will be as follows:

- All students will be screened daily before exiting their vehicle or entering the bus (for bus riders)
- Families will be asked a series of yes/no health questions (below)
- The temperature of each student in the vehicle (or bus stop) will be taken
- All staff and visitors will be screened daily before entering the building
- Staff and visitors will be asked a series of yes/no health questions (below)
- The temperature of each staff and visitor will be taken

Screening Questions:

Please answer YES or NO. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms that indicate a possible COVID-19 infection?

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

Please answer YES or NO. Have you had close contact with any individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 or awaiting test results in the last 14 days?

Close contact is defined as:

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- Being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes;



If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the individual who tested positive was infectious.

Information collected in these screens will not be retained if the screening is passed. If a parent indicates that a student is demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms, the school will retain that information until the student meets the criteria for return to school.

Mitigation

Our district will be taking the following steps across each of our campuses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- All students, staff and visitors will complete a health screening before being admitted to the school or bus each day. The screening consists of a series of yes/no health questions and a temperature check.
- Student arrival and dismissal will be staggered to limit large group gatherings.
- All students and staff will wear face masks while on campus, only those with a medical exemption are permitted to wear a face shield. Students may remove masks during mealtime and when socially distanced outdoors.
- Social distancing strategies will be maintained at all times.
- Classrooms will be arranged to maintain social distancing during instruction.
- Students and staff will remain in cohorts for instruction and transitions. Teachers for older grades may rotate, but students will not.
- Handwashing time will be built into the daily schedule and hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces will be conducted throughout the school day.
- All meals will be consumed in the classroom to minimize transitions and potential exposure.
- Students and staff who are showing signs of illness will be tracked and excluded from in-person attendance. Students showing symptoms on campus will wait in a containment room until picked up by a parent. The room will have a chaperone stationed outside to provide supervision.
- Campus visitors will be limited to essential personnel only. Parents shall schedule visits to the campus in advance.

Response

In the event of a COVID-positive case on campus, the campus will take the following steps:

- All areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case will be closed off until disinfected.
- All teachers, staff, and families of all students in that school will be notified.
- The local health department will be notified, and the school will follow any additional guidance provided by the health department.

Criteria for Return to School

In the event of a COVID-positive case (or an individual showing COVID-19 symptom that does not get tested or an asymptomatic individual who had close exposure to a confirmed case), the individual will have to meet a set of criteria before being cleared to return to campus.

Conditions for return to school after an individual gets a positive test result:



Either:

- 24 hours with no fever; and
- Symptoms improved; and
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Or:

- An acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19

Or:

- A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

Conditions for return to school after an individual is sent home for showing symptoms yet had no known exposure to a COVID-positive case:

- 24 hours symptom-free without the use of fever or symptom-reducing medication

Or:

- A doctor's note indicating an alternate diagnosis

Conditions for return to school after an individual had close contact with a COVID-positive individual:

- Complete 14-day quarantine
- Monitor symptoms daily
- Symptom-free during the last 24 hours of quarantine

We hope that this information gives you confidence in our systems and our ability to stop the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to covidresponse@ideapublicschools.org.

TRANSPORTATION

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:

- 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

- Wear a PPE mask before entering the bus
- Use provided hand sanitizer
- 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:

- Unload the bus in an orderly fashion while maintaining social distancing
- Use provided hand sanitizer
- 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 scans 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/>

NUTRITION

IDEA Public Schools will continue to provide meals to all students via curbside meals. Parents can pick up breakfast and lunch in bundles for multiple days:

On Mondays, parents can pick up meals for Monday and Tuesday

On Wednesdays, parents can pick up meals for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

If you miss a Monday or Wednesday, don’t worry—we will still be providing meal pick up service on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All meals are served cold (for food safety) and will include heating instructions so your child can enjoy them later.

Meal pick-up times:

Austin, El Paso, Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio, Tarrant County:

Monday and Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., and 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.; and Tuesday, Thursday, Fridays from 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Houston:

Monday and Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., and 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.; and Tuesday, Fridays from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.



Louisiana:

Monday and Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday, Thursday, Fridays from 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Meals can be picked up at your closest IDEA campus. Just simply hold up your child's IDEA student ID (preferred) or place by the front windshield as you pull up. Although an IDEA student ID badge is preferable, you may also show IDEA enrollment communications (examples include mailed letters or electronic registration confirmation, classroom assignments) as well. Click [here](#) for more information.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

COMMUNICATION

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 7am-7pm. 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.

- How to join a class: <https://help.remind.com/hc/en-us/articles/203179887-How-do-I-join-a-class>
- How to set up or change your notifications: <https://help.remind.com/hc/en-us/articles/206430755-How-do-I-change-my-message-notifications->

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 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!

[GLOSSARY OF TERMS](#)

