

Highland Independent School District

**Safe Return to
In-Person Instruction
and Continuity of
Services Plan
(RIPICS)**

2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

Highland ISD will be applying for the ESSER III federal funding grant. The purpose of the ESSER III grant is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students and staff. The plan that follows is a draft intended to outline Highland ISD planned safety measures for the 2021-2022 school year while continuing to provide an excellent educational experience.

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

To reduce the risk of transmission Highland ISD plans the following mitigation strategies for the 2021-2022 school year (per current CDC guidelines)

- Proper handwashing encouraged
- Hand sanitizer available
- Optional mask wearing (as written in Executive Order No. GA-36 signed May 18, 2021)
- Targeted cleaning as appropriate (especially in high contact areas)
- The use of assigned seating, cohorts, and podding when appropriate to maximize social distancing
- Positive cases will be reported to the local health department
- Local vaccination information regarding sites/providers are available upon request
- Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities as identified in the student's Individualized Education Plan

ENSURING CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Highland ISD will continue to take appropriate actions to ensure continuity of services to students. These actions will focus on addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Proposed plans to provide a continuity of services are as follows:

- To provide instructional materials/resources, activities and outreach to meet the needs of students.
- To provide enhanced social emotional curriculum for our students

- To provide social and emotional counseling, wellness supports to students and professional development (training) to staff.
- To provide technology updates and enhance infrastructure and connectivity.
- To provide measures to identify learning gaps and needs
- To provide staff development to accelerate learning
- Additional Elementary Reading/Math Interventionist Staff

See the Highland ISD Use of ESSER III Funds Plan for further information.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

During the development of the plan, student data and informed input from staff throughout the district was considered. Needs were prioritized based on wellness and instructional continuity. A stakeholder's meeting with teachers, students, parents, community members and administration was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 for input. Staff surveys were emailed and community surveys were posted on Facebook and our website from June 28, 2021 through July 7, 2021. An additional meeting was held on Thursday, July 8, 2021 to gather additional input and prioritize the suggestions compiled through every platform. All feedback will be considered in revising the draft plan. Such revisions will occur prior to the application of ESSER III funds.

PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE PLAN

During the period in which ESSER III funds are available, Highland ISD will review and revise the plan at least every six months. These revisions will take into account parent and community feedback, as well as updated guidance from the Texas Education Agency.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Highland ISD has taken the following steps to ensure availability of the plan to families and the community:

- This draft plan is posted on the HISD website (<http://highland.esc14.net>).
- A hard copy of this plan is available upon request.
- This plan is available in Spanish upon request.

- This plan may be translated orally in Spanish by request. Please contact Recia Hale to request a translation at rhale@highland.esc14.net or 325-766-3652.
- A parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may request the plan in an alternative format. Please contact Recia Hale to make such a request at rhale@highland.esc14.net or 325-766-3652.