

**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's 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)
- 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, as well as, 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
- To provide an Elementary Reading/Math Interventionist

**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 was considered in revising the draft plan. Such revisions occurred 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://www.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](mailto: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](mailto:rhale@highland.esc14.net) or 325-766-3652.

# Highland ISD

## COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

### Mitigation

Highland ISD will be taking the following steps across our campus to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

- Visitors will be allowed. All visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and have their temperatures checked.
- Parents are asked to proactively identify when their student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed and to keep them home.
- All staff are required to self-screen daily.
- Face masks/coverings are not required at this time per Governor Abbott's executive order. Face masks will be available for students and staff. Masks will not be required on campus but may be worn.
- All classrooms and facilities will receive regular sanitizing to disinfect surfaces.
- All classrooms will be equipped with approved cleaning and disinfecting supplies.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, entrances and common areas.
- Hand washing practices will be taught and utilized throughout the day.
- Traditional water fountains will be turned off. The district will be replacing traditional water fountains with water bottle filling stations. Students will need to bring their own labeled water bottles.
- The campus will practice social distancing as needed.
- There will be increased training for faculty and staff.
- COVID-19 testing will be available to all faculty, staff, and students free of charge.
- (Transportation) Hand sanitizer will be available on buses, and when possible, windows will be opened to allow air to circulate. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

- Drop-off: We encourage parents to drop off students at the front door in the mornings. Parents may park and walk their child(ren) through the front doors, but may not proceed down any hallways.
- Pick-up: We encourage elementary parents to pull through the pick-up line at the end of the school day. If parents choose to park, teachers will not escort elementary students across the parking lot until the car line has expired. Junior High and High School students will be dismissed through the south doors.

HISD COVID-19 Response Team:

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