



Turkey-Quitaque ISD

Back to School Plan Summary 2020-2021

The administration, staff and board members of Turkey-Quitaque ISD have been working diligently to devise a plan for the safe reopening of our schools for the 2020-2021 school year, which will begin on August 19, 2020.

Our plan addresses the health, social, and emotional needs of our students as well as provides a high-quality education that sets the standard for others to follow. In this document you will find a summary of our plan in which incorporates the latest guidance from our health authorities and the Texas Education Agency. (TEA)

Educational Considerations

In-Person and Remote Learning

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will offer all students the choice of attending in-person classes or remote learning this coming school year. Both options will follow the 2020-2021 instructional calendar and both options will address the required curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills or TEKS). Keep in mind that your child will still be taking the STAAR Test in the Spring. Below is a brief description of the options, as well as restrictions and considerations of each method.

In-Person Instruction

In this option students attend school in the traditional manner. The student comes to campus, meets with Turkey-Quitaque ISD teachers, and follows a traditional school schedule. In-person attendance is taken and the student is expected to complete assignments and assessments, which will be graded according to the Turkey-Quitaque ISD grading policies.

The following are considerations of In-Person Learning:

- Students will have access to their teacher and to instruction during normal school hours.
- Should a student become ill, he/she will be allowed to return to in-person activities as soon as he/she follows medical protocol and is cleared to return to school.
- During a medically related extended absence the student will have the opportunity to continue his/her classwork in the remote learning venue.

Online or Remote Learning

In this option, students will attend their classes remotely five days a week. Teachers may ask your child to be online during their class. Lessons will be posted and assignments will be completed in Google Classroom (called a learning management system or LMS).

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will be using Google Classroom as the learning management system in all grade levels. **Attendance will be taken daily.** All assignments/assessments will be graded and will count towards earning credit or passing the course/grade level.

The following are some important considerations for students choosing to receive instruction remotely:

- Students in remote learning must attend live (dependent on teacher), check in, and complete assignments everyday in order to be counted present. Normal laws of attendance will apply. Any student not checking in and not completing assignments will receive an unexcused absence. State law TEC §25.092 and TQISD Policy FEC [(Local) and (Legal)] requires students to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted.

- Each student should have his/her own device (laptop or tablet—phones will not work with remote learning).

- The student must have a robust internet connection at home in order to participate in remote learning (3+ Megabytes per second recommended). Turkey-Quitauque ISD will not supply Internet connections for students' residences.

- Students who choose remote learning will not be allowed to return to in-person instruction except at the end of a six week cycle. The same is true for in-person students choosing to transition to remote instruction. Students changing instructional methods must notify the campus **at least two weeks** before the date of change.

When can a child return to face to face or go to remote learning after school starts?

End of 1st 6 weeks—Sept. 25

End of 2nd 6 weeks—Nov. 6

End of 3rd 6 weeks—Dec. 18

End of 4th 6 weeks—Feb. 19

End of 5th 6 weeks—April 9

End of 6th 6 weeks—May 20

In short, here are the expectations for students and parents/guardians if the student participates in remote learning:

<p><u>Expectations for Students in Remote Learning</u></p>	<p><u>Expectations for Parents/Guardians in Remote Learning</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check in and complete assignments in class(es) daily, Monday-Friday most weeks. ● Virtual instruction will follow the same district calendar as on-campus learning. ● If the student needs help, he/she is expected to reach out to the teacher during the posted “office hours” for that class. ● Turn in all assignments and take all assessments on time. ● Accept that elective options are limited and could ultimately effect the student’s progress through school or graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure your child has a device and a stable, robust internet connection (3.0 Megabytes per second or higher recommended) ● Ensure your child has a place to work and the supplies necessary for his/her learning tasks. ● Be available the entire time that your student is “in school” in order to motivate and help your student. ● Ensure your child completes daily work and checks in according to teacher directions for feedback. ● Allow your child to struggle with new learning. This is part of the process! ● Reach out to the teacher during their posted “office hours” if you have questions.

Common Misconceptions of Remote Instruction:

<p>It will be just like last spring. Students can choose activities and don't have to work every day.</p>	<p>Remote instruction will be very different than last Spring. The lessons and assignments will be much harder and will count for a grade. The student will have to do the lessons and assignments every day during normal school hours.</p>
<p>The school will give us a device and internet connection.</p>	<p>Students will need their own device. Students will have to have their own high-speed Internet access. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, remote students will not be allowed on school property while in-person students are present to access the school's internet connection.</p>
<p>It's just like homeschooling.</p>	<p>In homeschooling, parents are responsible for curriculum, assignments, and grade. In TQISD remote instruction, the school will provide lessons, assignments and will also grade the work. Students must pass the class to advance to the next level or to graduate.</p>
<p>In remote learning, I don't have to work every day or I can do the work at night.</p>	<p>Anyone with experience in learning at home will agree that a parent or guardian will need to be constantly present with the student for guidance, help, and motivation. If the parent/guardian does not stay with the child to keep him/her on task and ensure they have help, then the student's grades will suffer, which could lead to failing the grade level or classes. Access to the teacher for assistance will be very limited and will not be enough by itself to ensure the student's success.</p>
<p>Remote instruction is the only way to keep my child safe.</p>	<p>While we are sympathetic to the COVID-19 concerns, Turkey-Quitauque ISD is taking exceptional steps to keep students safe during this crisis. Included in the steps are redoubling cleaning and disinfecting, spraying everything in our building with Germinator, hand-sanitizing stations and health screenings upon entry. We understand that this will not guarantee that students will not contract the Coronavirus, but these steps (as well as many others) are being taken to keep students as safe as possible.</p>

Attendance and Enrollment

As per Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade.

Students will attend school according to the board adopted school calendar.

In order to maintain attendance and grades for credit, remote asynchronous instruction will be made available to students in the event of intermittent closure or student illness.

Grading

Assignments and assessments issued in remote learning and in-person learning will be for a grade. In the same way as in-person learning, failing grades in remote learning could effect your student's graduation plan, endorsements, CTE certifications, credits earned, and/or promotion to the next grade. In order to receive the correct credit for their work, students must submit all assignments to the teacher through Google Classroom.

Prevention

Screening for COVID-19 Before Campus Access

Turkey-Quitaque ISD's teachers and staff are required to self-screen for COVID-19 before coming onto campus each day.

Teachers and staff must report to the district if they:

- * have COVID-19 symptoms, or

- * are lab confirmed with COVID-19.

If either of these criteria are met, the teacher/staff member must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.

If a teacher or staff member has been in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

Parents must ensure they do not send a student to school if the student:

- * has COVID-19 symptoms, or

- * is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

If either of these criteria are met, the parent should opt to receive asynchronous instruction (remote learning) until the student meets the criteria for re-entry.

If the student has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, parents may also opt to have the student receive asynchronous instruction (remote learning) until the 14 day incubation period has passed.

Visitors must be screened by the District before being allowed onto campuses to determine if the visitor:

- * has COVID-19 symptoms, or

- * is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

If either of these criteria are met, the visitor must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry.

If a visitor has been in close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, they must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will be limiting visitors and people coming in the building from the outside to only those with educational purposes in order to reduce the chance of COVID exposure.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals who themselves are either lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or experience symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the District screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus **re-entry** have been met:

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- * at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);

- * the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and

- * at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

* obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or

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

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will immediately separate any student, teacher, or staff member who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school.

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will disinfect all areas of District's facilities daily and will disinfect areas used by individuals who show COVID-19 symptoms as soon as possible.

Response

If an individual who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, Turkey-Quitaque ISD will notify the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will close off areas heavily used by an individual with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 until the non-porous surfaces can be disinfected.

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases and legal confidentiality requirements, Turkey-Quitaque ISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students at Turkey-Quitaque ISD if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

Mitigation

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

Turkey-Quitauque ISD has paid for Germinator. Germinator is a process that uses organic compounds combined with a microbial barrier application which helps keep your items sanitary for many months without reapplication. Their technology has been scientifically proven in university and independent laboratory studies. Their process also destroys allergy-inducing dust mites. The technology for Germinator Mobile Sanitizing is produced in the USA and is used in daycare centers, schools and medical facilities where germ control is a top priority. Our SHIELD system is a highly effective weapon for helping maintain a healthy living and workspace in an ongoing basis.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will make hand sanitizer available to all students and staff in several locations throughout the District.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD will provide instruction to students on proper hygiene practices.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks

Turkey-Quitauque ISD is required to comply with Governor Abbott's Executive Order regarding the wearing of masks. Based on the Governor's Executive Order issued on July 2, 2020, if a county has less than 20 active lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases, residents are not required to wear masks. Since our county has less than 20 active, confirmed COVID-19 cases, Turkey-Quitauque ISD students, teachers, staff, and visitors are not required to wear masks at this time.

Student-Teacher Groupings

Social distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible.

Use of Non-Classroom Spaces

When feasible and appropriate (for example, in physical education classes as weather permits), students will gather outside.

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will plan entry, exit, and transition procedures to reduce large group gatherings in close proximity.

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will follow U.I.L. guidelines regarding extra-curricular activities.

Transportation

Turkey-Quitaque ISD will make hand sanitizer available on all buses and will sanitize buses after each trip.

Staffing

Turkey-Quitaque ISD employees must continue to meet the work expectations set by the District subject to any applicable employment contract terms.