

Walnut Springs ISD

2021-2022 Back-To-School Plan

including

Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

This Back-To-School Plan including Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services has been written in collaboration with district administration, Board of Trustees, teachers and parents and is based on guidance received from local health officials, as well as state and federal guidelines.

Timeline

August 2, 2021	Teachers / Staff return to campus Football practice begins @ 7:00am
August 9, 2021	Meet the Teacher @
August 11, 2021	Students return to campus – doors open @ 7:20; breakfast begins @ 7:20
August 13, 2021	Scrimmage @ Cleburne Time:TBA

Campus Screening Protocols - Teachers and staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before arriving on campus each day. Parents should continue to screen students for symptoms of illness (including Covid-19 symptoms) prior to sending students to school each day. Students exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms should remain home while parents communicate with campus nursing staff regarding appropriate actions.

Arrival/Dismissal - Campus arrival plans will address student traffic flow to allow for the practice of social distancing. Parent transportation is encouraged, with designated unloading zones. Students requiring district transportation arrive on district busses and unload in designated areas. Students will pick up their “grab ‘n go” breakfast upon entering the school building and report to their assigned classroom. Each grade level stays in the same classroom for the entire day. Teachers move from classroom to classroom to mitigate the spread of germs. At the end of the school day, students will be released in accordance with campus release procedures. Parent pick up areas are established at the appropriate doors, with bus transportation provided at the exit on Ave A to reduce congestion as students exit the building.

Hallways/Common Areas - Walnut Springs ISD campuses will continue to implement traffic flow patterns throughout district facilities to manage student congestion and allow for greater distance between students during transitions. Water fountains/bottle refilling stations will be managed in accordance with local health guidance and best practices.

Classroom Procedures - District classrooms will maximize space to keep students socially distanced to the greatest extent possible, given the physical limitations of each room. Classroom desks will be placed in a way to create 3 ft of separation between students when possible, in accordance with the latest guidance from the CDC. Walnut Springs ISD will continue to revise protocols in accordance with information provided by the CDC, Bell County Public Health District, and the Texas Education Agency. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.

Food Service Protocols - Walnut Springs ISD cafeterias will continue to serve breakfast in the classroom. Lunches will follow more traditional food service models with students eating in the cafeteria and satellite rooms to meet social distancing guidelines. Lunch times will be adjusted to manage the number of students present during each lunch period. The adjusted times will also allow for additional cleaning/sanitizing between lunches. Hand sanitizer stations will be available for use at the beginning of each serving line. Every effort will be made to eliminate areas and systems that create contamination concerns.

Campus Visitors - All campus visitors must check in through the main office and are subject to health screenings. Any individual who exhibits symptoms of Covid-19 or has had direct contact with an individual confirmed to have Covid-19 will be denied entry. Campuses will minimize the presence of non-district personnel allowed to enter each facility.

Instructional Delivery - Walnut Springs ISD will continue 100% in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. The district will not institute a remote learning option or provide remote instruction to students as an alternative to traditional, on-campus instruction. The district will continue to implement Google Classroom as a learning management system to facilitate instruction for students who must be quarantined or test positive for Covid-19. Assignments managed via the LMS are available to students who are absent from school, but students not present on campus will NOT be counted present for attendance purposes.

Instructional Continuity - Implementation of technology devices (one-to-one) and the Learning Management System will provide the foundation for instructional continuity. This will allow the district to respond to a variety of circumstances and seamlessly provide instruction for students who are required to stay home. Should the need for campus or district closures arise, remote learning can be implemented at any time.

Transportation Services - Walnut Springs ISD will follow local health guidelines and TEA recommendations for District transportation. Walnut Springs ISD buses will continue to utilize seating charts to allow for contact tracing and appropriate student spacing. Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses. When possible, Walnut Springs ISD buses will operate with open windows to allow for air circulation. The district encourages parents to drop off students to reduce student

numbers relying on bus transportation. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

Extracurricular Participation - Walnut Springs ISD extracurricular activities will operate in compliance with UIL and TEA guidance. The district will continue to communicate with the Bell County Public Health District regarding any specific or unusual circumstances.

Masks/Face Coverings - In accordance with the latest guidance from the Texas Education Agency consistent with the Governor's executive order (GA-36), Walnut Springs ISD is prohibited from requiring students or staff to wear a mask. Walnut Springs ISD will allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Mitigation Practices - Walnut Springs ISD will continue to monitor guidance from the CDC regarding the safe operations of schools and implement policies and practices to protect the health and safety of our students and employees. The district will follow the guidelines established by the Bell County Public Health District and the Texas Education Agency.

Social Distancing - Walnut Springs ISD will build systems and operations to maximize the ability of individuals within the schools to practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Handwashing/Respiratory Etiquette - Walnut Springs ISD campuses will provide guidance and instruction for students to practice effective handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Enhanced Cleaning Protocols - The district will continue to follow enhanced cleaning protocols to sanitize surfaces within district facilities. Through a partnership with GermBlast, who provides comprehensive treatments throughout the district, custodial and maintenance employees have been trained to clean and disinfect buildings on a daily basis. This includes the use of chemicals designed to kill viruses and other pathogens on surfaces.

Ventilation - The district will continue to make efforts to improve ventilation and air circulation throughout facilities. All classrooms contain fans for additional circulation.

Covid Response - If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have Covid-19, the school will notify the Bell County Public Health District, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have Covid-19, Walnut Springs ISD will submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Contact Tracing - Walnut Springs ISD will communicate with the Bell County Public Health District and follow their guidance regarding procedures for conducting contact tracing to identify individuals who meet the criteria for close contact. The district will follow local guidance and TEA protocols regarding close contacts.

Isolation - Any individual who presents with Covid-19 symptoms in the school will be isolated immediately and evaluated by district nursing personnel. The district will follow local guidance and TEA protocols regarding symptomatic individuals.

Quarantine - Walnut Springs ISD will follow the guidance of the Bell County Public Health District regarding quarantine orders.

Return-to-Campus Protocol - District nursing personnel will evaluate circumstances and establish the timeline for which an individual may return to campus. This decision will be based on guidelines established by the local health authority and TEA.

Vaccinations - Beginning during the 2020-2021 school year, Walnut Springs ISD worked closely with Goodall Witcher Hospital System to make Vaccines available to all district employees. By the Spring of 2021, all district employees who chose to receive the vaccine were fully vaccinated. The district continues to work to make vaccines available to individuals within the district.

Students with Disabilities - Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Walnut Springs ISD has coordinated services for students with disabilities along with the Bosque County Special Education Cooperative. District staff and teachers have continued the process of evaluating students, providing appropriate accommodations and learning supports, and meeting the needs of students. This support was available, regardless of the learning environment, and continues to be available through any future scenarios that would involve continuity of services implementation due to the pandemic.

Social, Emotional, or Mental Health Needs - Walnut Springs ISD counseling staff are prepared to respond to social, emotional, or mental health concerns. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, counselors are available and work proactively to protect the mental health of students.

Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan Review - The Walnut Springs ISD RIPICS plan will be reviewed every six months until September 30, 2023 or any time that additional guidance or information merits changes.