

## Blum ISD

### Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services for All Students

*This page on our website will be used to meet the communication requirements with our staff, parents, and community members about the ESSER III (ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief) funds. These are federal funds sent to the states to help cover costs associated with learning loss due to COVID-19 and the cost of online (virtual) instruction, facilities improvements, and any other education related affect from the COVID-19 event.*

The Texas Education Agency recently announced the availability of \$11.2 billion in federal funding made available to school districts through ESSER III under the American Rescue Plan. This is a substantial sum of money, though amounts vary significantly from district to district. As part of the requirements from the Texas Education Agency for districts to receive this funding, we must communicate our “Safe Return for All Students Plan” to the agency and our community. During the 20-21 school year, Blum ISD remained open for face-to-face learning to all students while offering a virtual model to those who desired to remain at home, as long as they performed to the level of expectation from campus administration while on virtual

learning. This was provided because the Texas Education Agency funded this option. Beginning with the 21-22 school year TEA will no longer fund the virtual school option. All Blum ISD students will be required to attend school in person, or choose another education opportunity that best fits their needs not provided by Blum ISD, such as home school or private school. Blum ISD is proud to have offered the opportunity for face-to-face (in person) instruction for all students during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school year with the support of our faculty, staff, students, school board, and community. For the 2022-23 school year full in-person instruction will continue, along with all activities and extracurricular programs, and no virtual instruction model will be made available at this time. This statement is meant to satisfy the requirements for accepting additional funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

**The top priorities of Blum ISD are the safety and academic success of all students.**

#### **SAFE RETURN GOALS 2022-2023**

1. Continue to engage the elected school board, community, and parents to develop safety and wellness protocols based on science and current events as they are affecting the students, staff, and parents associated with Blum Independent School District.
2. Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated catch-up growth opportunities.
3. Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
4. Keep schools open all year without having to endure school closure.

**All plans are subject to change based on regulations by the Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas. Parents will be notified if changes are necessary.**

## **Back to School 2022-2023**

Entering into the 2022-2023 school year Blum ISD plans to continue the learning initiatives it had established and will provide new learning opportunities for our students.

### **Instructional Settings and Continuity of Services**

- Blum ISD, after careful review of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 event, has made the decision to remain open to all students for face-to-face learning..
- For the 2022-23 school year full In-Person or Face to Face Instruction will continue. along with expanded services, activities, and extracurricular programs.
- Assessing and Address the Impact of Learning Loss
- Use of screeners and/or benchmark assessments to help identify student strengths, learning gaps and disabilities
- Provide learning interventions that lead toward student progress and growth.
- Incorporate Differentiated Learning Platforms that Continuously Adapt for Student Growth
- More Instructional Time to address the impact of Learning Loss
- Blum ISD will offer additional learning opportunities that may include
  - During the day tutoring
  - After school tutoring
  - Summer School
  - Credit Recovery

### **Rigorous Instructional Materials and Teacher Supports**

- Implementation of additional Career Tech Courses at the Secondary Level
- Implementation of the Accelerated Reading at the Elementary Level
- Lead4Ward & Renaissance to track student growth
- Increased use of technology in the classrooms
- Continuation of Academic Support for grades 3-8 and EOC remediation/acceleration
- Extra and Co-curricular Programs

### **Mental Health and Behavioral Supports**

- Blum ISD will continue to utilize various programming, resources, and partnerships that benefit the mental, social and emotional needs of the student.
- Offer in school counseling
- PBIS Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Continue Student Councils
- Ensure the continuity of Food service programs
- Ensure multiple extra/co-curricular opportunities are offered
- Utilize a character education program

- Utilize the counselors to create groups and individual counseling services for students.

### **Facilities**

- Continued development of specialized instructional spaces within buildings
- Update, as needed, for improved technology use within the schools
- Building improvements as needed for the safety of staff and students

## **Proposed COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols**

### **Face Coverings Optional**

- Face coverings may be worn by those who feel more comfortable doing so.
- Face coverings will not be required in any educational space or activity including school buses, athletics, etc.

### **COVID Immunizations Not Mandatory**

- Blum ISD will provide information to the staff about COVID immunization opportunities when requested, as a courtesy for those who wish to access the vaccine. However, the COVID immunization will not be required for staff or students.
- Blum ISD staff may report their vaccination status to their camps health professional; however, this will not be mandatory.

### **Hand Hygiene**

- Blum ISD will continue to encourage good hand hygiene, such as reminding students to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, etc., and provide access to hand sanitizer stations.

### **Disinfection**

- Touchpoints (i.e. doorknobs, light switches, etc.) will continue to be disinfected throughout all buildings on a daily basis.
- School buses will be disinfected.
- Teachers and staff will continue to have access to disinfectant supplies to clean high-touch areas regularly if desired.

### **Quarantines Discontinued**

- Quarantines of healthy/non-symptomatic students and staff will be discontinued. Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID, or show symptoms commonly associated with COVID, they will be asked to follow the recommendations of their health care provider.
- Students, staff, parents, and community members are asked not to return to school, if fever has been present, until they are fever free and medication free for 24 consecutive Hours.

**Cafeteria and Child Nutrition**

- Employees must adhere to Food Services Guidance
- Ensure that all non-disposable food service items washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.

**Visitors in PISD Schools/Facilities Permitted**

- In the 2022-2023 school year, visitors will be permitted in schools as they were pre-COVID.
- Schools keep a log of visitors and where they visited.
- Face coverings will not be required for visitors, however, they may wear one if they are more comfortable doing so.

**Playgrounds and Recess**

- Playground use is allowed.
- Hand washing will be encouraged throughout the day.
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**Athletics and Activities Resume as Normal**

- Athletics and activities will resume.

**Field Trips Resume**

- Field trips will continue in 2022-2023