



## S-TISD

# “Returning to Excellence” Fall 2020 Plan

School Board Approved September 3, 2020

Skidmore-Tynan ISD is committed to meeting the needs of our students, staff, and community as we move forward with the essential task of educating our students in the exceptional manner our stakeholders have come to expect! Our guiding principle will be a balanced, prescriptive approach to safely meet the expectations of OUR community.

Per Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines, we will be offering two options for our students, and these two options are described in this document. This document includes safety measures for Traditional In-School Learning, requirements for Remote Learning, and other information that will be helpful as families make decisions for what is in the best interest of their child’s education. Throughout our plan, the focus will be on the balance of the essential need for a child to receive a quality education AND to do so in the safest way possible.

## INSTRUCTIONAL OPTIONS FALL 2020

Traditional In-School Learning	Remote Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● On campus, in-school instruction</li><li>● S-TISD instructors and curriculum</li><li>● All core and elective courses</li><li>● Technology and learning software</li><li>● Transportation, if needed</li><li>● Extracurricular activities</li><li>● Individualized teacher support</li><li>● Intervention and enrichment sessions</li><li>● Counseling services</li><li>● Safety and health prevention measures</li><li>● Grade level TEKS</li><li>● Opportunities for advanced academic experiences</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Commitment required</li><li>● S-TISD instructors and curriculum</li><li>● Parent as learning coach</li><li>● Real-time &amp; self-paced instruction</li><li>● Time commitment similar to in-school</li><li>● Daily attendance and assignments required</li><li>● Reliable internet and computer required</li><li>● Grades equivalent to in-school</li><li>● Grade level TEKS</li><li>● Minimum standards for promotion to the next grade level</li></ul>

## TRADITIONAL IN-SCHOOL PLAN

Skidmore-Tynan ISD will reopen schools for in-class learning on September 10 for students unless otherwise dictated by state officials. The Traditional In-School Plan provides highly-qualified teachers in all courses, including electives, and reflects the high academic standards and excellent quality that is synonymous with our name. The traditional school experience provides opportunities for both enrichment and intervention throughout the school day.

Skidmore-Tynan leaders have been in constant dialogue with appropriate county and state leaders, and our top daily priority for the previous two months has been to establish safety protocols for students and staff.

Skidmore-Tynan ISD will follow state and federal requirements, rely on local health experts for guidance in decision-making, and adopt reasonable practices while maintaining a quality learning environment. We have never experienced a situation that is as fluid; therefore, these plans will likely be modified based on additional state guidance and/or best practices that are discerned.

### PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Teachers and staff will be required to wear masks throughout the day as appropriate.
- S-TISD is required to follow the Governor's orders regarding face coverings, which requires individuals over 10 years of age to wear a mask when inside a building or space open to the public. Due to the need for a unified safety protocol, **ALL children, grades PreK-12, will be required to wear a mask.** We request you send a mask to school with your child each day. However, masks will be provided if needed. Face coverings are required for safety and shall not be worn in a manner that distracts from instruction. Face coverings will be worn to cover the nose and mouth of the wearer, but shall not cover other parts of the face, such as the eyes. Face masks will follow dress code requirements. Teachers will provide at least 2 mask breaks during the school day that follow procedures developed by each campus. Students will be allowed to take off their masks during recess (PreK-5<sup>th</sup>), when eating lunch, during PE, and during Band practice. We will review these guidelines periodically to determine if additional changes are needed.
- All staff will be required to take a COVID-19 Self-Health Assessment prior to coming to work every day.
- Parents will be asked to daily administer the COVID-19 Health Assessment (included on page 8) prior to sending their children to school, take their child's temperature, and keep them home if ill.
- Individuals who develop symptoms of the COVID-19 illness will be sent to the school nurse and placed in an isolation area; parents will be contacted immediately for pick up. Parents/Guardians will need to make every effort to pick up their child within 30 minutes.
- Students will be instructed on methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at school.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water to school in a clear, plastic container labeled with the student's name. Water fountains will be blocked off for safety reasons.
- Students will be trained on proper hand washing techniques.

- Daily temperature checks will be performed before getting on the morning bus routes and in classrooms at specified campus times.
- Should a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19, communication will follow based on state and local guidelines.
- Campuses will utilize online meeting options to limit campus visitors when possible. All visitors who enter the building will be required to wear a face mask/covering.
- Visitors who need to meet with a staff member beyond the front desk must make an appointment prior to arrival unless there is an emergency.
- Visitors will have their temperature checked and will need to complete a COVID-19 Self-Assessment upon arrival.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at entrances and exits throughout the building.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PROTOCOL

- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will occur throughout the school day.
- Nightly deep cleaning will occur across the campus.
- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned/disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
- All high touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Cleaning supplies will be provided for each classroom and in common areas to maximize room-to-room cleanliness.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected regularly.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the building in common areas.

## CLASSROOM CONFIGURATIONS AND PROCEDURES

It is our promise to maintain a warm and inviting learning environment in our classrooms while simultaneously following health guidelines. Students will be seated at all campuses with as much separation as feasible without disrupting the educational experience.

Each classroom will have the following:

- Access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces.
- Shared supplies will be limited and cleaned between uses.
- Based on district guidance, teachers will develop, teach, and implement procedures that:
  - Limit student movement within the classroom such as turning in assignments, materials being passed out, etc.
  - Establish student responsibilities to clean personal areas and materials/supplies.
  - Reinforce hand washing protocols and intermittent use of hand sanitizer.
  - Reduce the use of large table seating in classrooms and replace with desks when possible.
  - If tables are used, limit the number of students per table to provide as much physical distancing as possible.
  - To the extent possible, locked doors will be propped open between classes to minimize contact with doors and door handles by students and staff entering or exiting classrooms.

## TRANSPORTATION

In response to COVID-19, Skidmore-Tynan ISD encourages all families with the ability to do so to transport their children to and from school. Bus transportation will be offered; however, the standard number of transported students compromises the ability to socially distance. **For this reason, students utilizing bus transportation will be required to wear face coverings/masks at all times while on board.**

- Students temperature will be taken as they board the bus.
- Hand sanitizer will be available when boarding the bus.
- All bus drivers will wear face masks/coverings.
- Buses will be cleaned/disinfected between each transportation run and at the end of the day.
- Bus windows will be cracked when in use to allow for fresh air circulation.
- Transportation staff will be trained in proper cleaning/disinfecting procedures.
- All S-TISD vehicles will be equipped with cleaning and disinfecting supplies.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

To minimize foot traffic in the building and to allow for adequate physical distancing for students during eating periods, **lunch visitors will not be allowed.** These restrictions may loosen as the year progresses; however, it is important to allow campus staff the flexibility to space out students throughout common areas.

- Breakfast will be served in the classroom at Elementary.
- Junior High and High School breakfast will be staggered based on grade level and Athletics period. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will get their breakfast and report to 1<sup>st</sup> period to eat. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders not in Athletics will eat in the cafeteria and students in Athletics 1<sup>st</sup> period will be given time to eat in the cafeteria the last 15 minutes of Athletics. High School students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria.
- Cafeteria and serving areas will be cleaned regularly.
- Face masks/coverings will be worn while in the cafeteria except when eating.
- All S-TISD child nutrition staff will use face coverings/masks and gloves while performing job responsibilities and will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations.
- Students will be seated every other seat as space allows.
- **No outside food will be allowed for drop-off.**
- Meal menus are available on our website at [www.stbobcats.net](http://www.stbobcats.net) and sent monthly through social media.

## ARRIVALS, DISMISSALS, AND TRANSITIONS

Parents are asked to assist campus staff in the implementation of arrival and dismissal plans. When transporting children to school, please follow all signage, drop off and pick up children at the appropriate locations, and quickly exit the parking lots.

- **Students will not be allowed to gather outside before school. Please do not drop off your students before 7:30am. Buildings open at 7:30 for students to report to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class.**
- Parents will not be permitted to walk students inside the school building beyond the secure vestibule.
- JH and HS drop off and pick up areas and procedures remain the same.
- Elementary students arriving at school will go straight to their classroom.

- Elementary students will be dismissed from classrooms at pick-up time instead of congregating outside to wait for car pickup.
- All areas of the building (gym, cafeteria, larger classrooms, common areas, etc.) will be utilized to limit the size of student groupings.
- Hall traffic will be monitored and marked to encourage distancing in the hallways.

## EXTRACURRICULAR, ATHLETICS, AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Texas Education Agency has allowed Local Education Agencies (School Boards) authority to determine students eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. Any exclusion policy must be applied equally to all students and equally to all extracurricular activities. Skidmore-Tynan ISD will require students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities to be enrolled in face-to-face instruction.

Extracurricular activities, practices, and competitions will be conducted following safety protocols provided by Skidmore-Tynan ISD, the University Interscholastic League (UIL), and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This will include health screening, group sizes, sharing and sanitizing of equipment, and locker room usage.

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available in gym areas, and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Spectator attendance at games and contests will be limited based on TEA and UIL guidelines.
- Ticketing for events may be utilized to control capacity of facilities.
- School-wide indoor pep rallies will not be held during the fall semester.
- Class assemblies will be virtual.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing stations will be available for any activity.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum distancing between students.

- Physical distance will be considered when assigning lockers for dressing out at the secondary level. Masks will be required in locker rooms.
- During instruction and activities, physical distancing will be in place.
- Students will be placed in smaller groups for instruction and activities when possible.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water to school in a clear, plastic container labeled with the student's name. Water fountains will be blocked off for safety reasons.

## REMOTE LEARNING

Skidmore-Tynan ISD will provide a Remote Learning option for families who choose not to participate in the Traditional In-School experience. Online instruction will be delivered completely virtually with Skidmore-Tynan ISD teachers providing instruction, assignments and support while following the Skidmore-Tynan ISD curriculum. Because grading will be consistent with on-campus instruction, families should plan for a minimum of 4-6 hours each day. Furthermore, students will need to have access to an electronic device and reliable internet. Regular progress monitoring and feedback will be provided. Grading practices for Remote Learning will be consistent with on-campus instruction. The Remote Learning option will require support from adults at home. The Remote Learning option will meet the grade level or course requirements.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING REMOTE LEARNING

- If the online program is chosen, students will remain in this format for a minimum of one grading period before the option to transition back to traditional school will be allowed.
- Students will be required to log in at specific times during the day for lessons.
- Each school day the student must participate in all lessons, assignments and activities posted for each course.
- The student will participate in all additional tutoring sessions required by the teachers.
- Reliable internet and computer access will be required for each student during every school day.
- The parent is the learning coach, and it will be necessary for the parent to provide support and supervision.
- Special Education services will be provided as determined by an Individualized Education Plan.

### ATTENDANCE

The minimum attendance for class credit rule will be in effect for the 20-21 school year. The state of Texas requires students to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as traditional attendance. In Remote Learning, student engagement is measured daily, and attendance is assigned based on the student's completion of that day's assignments. Students who do not engage and do not complete the daily assignments will be counted absent for that day, according to the TEA guidelines.

### HOMEBOUND SERVICES

Students with disabilities receiving remote homebound instruction will receive related services and support as indicated in the IEP via asynchronous instruction.

## GRADING

Grading procedures for K-12 will be the same for students in Traditional In-School Learning and Remote Learning. For grades 9-12, grades will count toward GPA, class rank, and UIL eligibility.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast and Lunch meals will continue to be offered to remote learners.

- Meals will be charged according to the student's current meal status (Free/Reduced, or Paying).
- Pickup for ALL Remote Learning meals will be picked up outside the HS/JH cafeteria from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Meal menus are available on our website at [www.stbobcats.net](http://www.stbobcats.net) and sent monthly through social media.

## COMMITMENT TO INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY OPTION

**Students will remain in the Remote Learning format for a minimum of one grading period before the option to transition back to Traditional In-School Learning will be allowed.**

- Please communicate with your child's campus when you anticipate a change in his/her learning platform.
- Students may or may not be assigned to their Remote Learning teacher if returning to In-Person instruction, which means students may have a different schedule upon their return.
- Due to the strategic planning needed to implement COVID-19 precautions, students who registered for school but did not complete the Commitment Form will be defaulted to Remote Learning. Students will still have the option to transition back to Traditional In-School Learning at the next grading period.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

# COVID-19 Student Self-Assessment

*Does your child have any of the symptoms listed below?*

- Fever equal to or greater than 100°F
- Chills/muscle aches
- Headache (new onset or severe headache)
- Diarrhea
- Cough (new cough or uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing)
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Unusual fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting or abdominal pain
- Someone in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days

*If the answer is YES to any of the above questions, your child should remain home. Additionally, it is recommended you consult with your primary care physician.*