



WALNUT BEND ISD
47 County Rd 198, Gainesville, TX 76240
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www.walnutbendisd.net
Ken Kemp Superintendent



Walnut Bend ISD
Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS)
Plan
2023-2024

Last updated on August 1st, 2023

This document summarizes the extent to which Walnut Bend ISD has implemented CDC and State of Texas Safety Recommendations for the 2023-2024 school year. These protocols are subject to change pending local circumstances or guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or the Governor's Office. If any changes are made, parents and staff will be notified as soon as possible.

Masks – masks are not mandatory for students and staff.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing – distancing and shielding protocols are no longer required but available in reserve if needed.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette – staff will review proper handwashing and general hygiene practices with students during the first few weeks of school (i.e., washing hands for at least 20 seconds and coughing into your armpit.)

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation – custodial staff will continue to clean and sanitize daily.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine – Walnut Bend ISD will follow the current State of Texas Department of Health guidelines on tracing, isolation, quarantine as they are issued.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing – students and staff experiencing a fever during the school day will be sent home. If a student develops a fever during the school day, they will quarantine until a parent or guardian can pick them up and not be allowed on campus the following day. To help keep everyone safe, we ask parents not to send their children to school if they are not feeling well.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities – the district shared information about testing and vaccination opportunities. WBISD will follow state guidelines regarding vaccines.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities for health and safety policies – staff will provide accommodations, modifications, and assistance for students with disabilities and other healthcare needs. As federal and state disability laws require, staff will adjust accordingly to provide an individualized approach for working with children with disabilities consistent with the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

Coordination with State and local health officials – Walnut Bend ISD works with state, county, and local officials as needed and will take all necessary precautions to protect the health and welfare of all students and staff.



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Students' Academic Needs and Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health – students have been back to school for in-person learning since the 2020-2021 school year, as we believe this to be the best setting to meet students' needs. We look forward to welcoming students back on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023.

Professional development was provided to all staff to strengthen and target instructional barriers while providing a safe and inclusive learning environment. K-3 teachers completed research based, high-quality training to implement evidence-based instruction and activities to address learning loss among students and close instructional gaps in early literacy. The district has purchased supplemental curricular resources, intervention, and acceleration programs to address learning loss. Elementary students receive additional support during the school day through small group instruction, acceleration, and intervention using evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.

The teaching staff at the WBISD provides Character Education and Social Emotional Learning lessons in the classroom. The lessons are preventative in nature, designed to reach all students, and are taught in the classroom regularly. Families who need intensive services will be referred to local mental health agencies and other social service providers such as Cooke County Children's Advocacy Center and Texoma Community Center.

This plan is subject to change at any time. As changes occur, we will inform the WBISD community.

The plan was last reviewed by the WBISD Board of Education August 15th, 2023