



PLANNING FOR SCHOOL IN FALL 2020

UPDATE #6

July 6, 2020 meeting

***NOTE:** *This article is a result of the weekly discussions of the Pearland ISD Return to School Committee. It serves as insight into possible contingency plans the committee is preparing for. As the 2020-21 school year approaches, definitive plans will be further released.*

With the COVID-19 pandemic still at the forefront of Pearland ISDs plan to proceed, the main topics of discussion in this meeting were as follows:

- **Education Learning- Synchronous and Asynchronous Models**
- **Parent and Employee Survey**
- **Quarantine Guidelines**
- **1:1 Initiative Program**

Educational Learning

Superintendent Dr. John Kelly shared TEA's newly released guidelines. Previously, the focus for Pearland ISD were three models for instruction: on-campus, remote learning a hybrid of the two. With new information from TEA, the district will focus specifically on: on-campus learning and remote learning to meet the requirements of synchronous and asynchronous models.

Pearland ISD will submit our intention to provide remote learning to TEA before first day of school. Thereafter, the district must submit a comprehensive plan for this endeavor in order to receive funding for those students who are learning remotely. The TEA will have 45 days to review and approve or disapprove the plan. The plan must outline both synchronous (face to face in real time) and asynchronous learning. The Synchronous model will require teachers to directly interact over the web while students participate in real-time. The Asynchronous model will require that teachers ensure daily student progress through a Learning Management System (Canvas/Seesaw), through teacher interactions and/or completion of assignments. Delivering remote instruction is not possible for all courses and activities; therefore the district must make realistic decisions about course availabilities.

Dr. Nyla Watson, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Programs, shared that her team is working through synchronous and asynchronous models, auditing courses to determine which can be offer and what the upcoming school year will look like. They are preparing course lists/offerings for principals and will define and build programs based on TEA's ever-changing guidelines. A formal plan is expected to be released soon for employees and parents.



Grade Level Breakdown for Remote Learning:

In accordance with TEA guidance and directives:

- Pre-K – 2nd grade: There are two options for these grade levels. First can be a mix of synchronous/asynchronous and the second option is asynchronous only. Students are required to complete at least three hours of asynchronous education per day.
- 3rd-5th: These grade levels are required to complete at least 3 hours of daily work per day.
- 6th-12th: These grade levels are required to complete at least 4 hours of asynchronous education per day.

Parents will be given the option to decide whether they prefer on-campus or remote learning for their children and will have until two weeks before the first day of school to make this decision. Per TEA's guidelines, parents will be provided the opportunity to change their student's educational model – but only at the end of a 9-week grading period.

PARENT SURVEY

Kim Hocott, Executive Director of Communications, reviewed the parent survey preliminary results with the committee. The parent survey will be available for parents to participate until July 11.

As of today, Pearland ISD has received a return rate of 58% on the parent survey with 12,350 completed in English and 315 in Spanish.

Survey results will be shared with parents and the community after the survey closes on Friday, July 10. This will be located on the "Plan to Proceed" web page on the district website.

EMPLOYEE SURVEY

David Moody, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, shared that the district is working on building a staff survey that will assist with staffing and planning purposes. The survey will go to employees this week.

QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

Mr. Moody shared that HR is currently working with Brazoria County to develop a flow chart of the school year quarantine process that is expected to go into effect on August 1, 2020 per TEA.

1:1 TECHNOLOGY

The committee was informed that the Board of Trustees passed a technology 1:1 Initiative Program during the last board meeting (Tuesday, June 23). This initiative will provide iPads (grades PK-1) and tablet/laptops (grades 2-12) for each student in the district.



Administration continues to work with vendors/providers on leasing versus buying options and determine if the laptops will have a touchscreen. (Note: The district has subsequently decided to purchase the units with touchscreens.)

SUMMARY

There is still much to plan and consider as the District works through new developments released by TEA and county/state officials. Pearland ISD remains dedicated to providing students and staff with a healthy and safe learning environment. Pearland ISD will plan to proceed.

*The Return to School Committee will be informed of the next meeting date pending release of new guidelines.