

Agenda of Regular Meeting
School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)
Pearland Independent School District

Regular Meeting of the Pearland Independent School District School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) will be held on **Monday, September 26, 2022**, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Dr. Nixon welcomed the SHAC and explained the process for asking questions and/or providing feedback during the virtual meeting.

2. Purpose

- Dr. Nixon reviewed the [TEA School Health Advisory \(SHAC\) Frequently Asked Questions](#) document with the group and discussed key information including defining the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and the required duties of a SHAC.
- Dr. Nixon asked for a volunteer to serve as the SHAC Co-Chairperson this year. The Co-Chairperson will assist in any presentations of SHAC information to the Board of Trustees, if needed, and will serve as an advisor to Dr. Nixon in the identification of topics to be discussed during SHAC meetings.

3. District Covid-19 Response Overview (ARP ESSER III) – Donna Tate, Federal Programs/Grants Administrator

- SHAC members reviewed the district’s COVID-19 response and allocation of ARP ESSER III funds. Ms. Tate explained that the SHAC is responsible for providing input and feedback on the health and safety of our students and our wellness supports and curriculum. This is a way for members to provide the district meaningful feedback on how the district is doing regarding our health and safety of students and our instruction in responding to the pandemic. The link to the information on the district website may be found here - <https://www.pearlandisd.org/Page/31889>
- Ms. Tate shared that Character Strong is an example of a program that was purchased for each campus from our ESSER funds to address the mental health of our students and staff.
- Ms. Tate asked the SHAC members to complete a brief survey to provide feedback regarding the district’s COVID-19 Response. A link to the survey will be emailed to all SHAC members as a follow-up to this meeting and may be accessed here - [Pearland ISD Covid-19 Response Feedback Survey for SHAC, September 26, 2022](#)

4. High School Exam Exemptions – Dr. Lisa Nixon, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

- A member of SHAC requested this agenda item. Dr. Nixon introduced this topic by sharing the exam exemption policies for the 2022 – 2023 school year from Dawson HS and Pearland HS. To be eligible for one or more exam exemptions, a student must meet the minimum grade requirement in the course and have no more than five absences, in addition to a few other requirements. Dr. Nixon explained that the goal of the exam exemptions is to encourage student attendance and encourage students to strive for the 80 or 90 semester average in their assigned courses. Dr. Nixon also shared with SHAC that the number of absences increased to five this year to allow a student who may have to isolate for 5 days due to testing positive for COVID would still be able to be exempt from an exam if the student has no other absences.
- Ms. Kelly Holt, Executive Director of High Schools, also explained that our high school campuses have exam exemptions to encourage high school students to come to school. We have many students that do not feel they need to come to school every day, they do not feel the pressure or have someone at home supporting them or encouraging them to come to school every day. Ms. Holt acknowledged that there are many other reasons students miss school and we currently do not have any exceptions to the no more than 5-day absence requirement. Ms. Holt also explained that attendance impacts our school and district accountability as well as our district funding – school districts are funded based on each day of attendance for each student.
- A parent asked if there was any process for an appeal or an exception to the five absences for students with a chronic medical condition or in extreme circumstances. Ms. Holt explained that we do not currently have any exceptions to the exam exemption policy. Another parent shared that other districts offer waivers on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Holt said she would share the concerns and request for consideration for a waiver or exemption on a case-by-case basis with the high school principals during her meeting with them this week.

5. COVID-19 District Planning & Procedures – Monica Reynolds, Coordinator of Health Services

- Mrs. Reynolds shared that TEA posted new guidance in August that reduced the number of days of isolation due to a positive case of COVID from 10 days to 5 days. In addition, quarantine is no longer recommended for individuals who are exposed to COVID, but it remains optional for our students and families. Masks also continue to be optional. Campuses will continue to send the Positive Case Classroom Notification letters, and the COVID dashboard is currently posted and updated weekly. Mrs. Reynolds explained that our clinics have very limited rapid COVID tests, and the district does not anticipate receiving additional rapid tests this year. Therefore, we will no longer be able to offer COVID testing on campus at this time.
- Mrs. Reynolds reviewed our cleaning procedures – they remain the same as last year with custodians performing frequent cleaning of high touch areas, restrooms, and the

cafeteria. We are also continuing the deep cleaning in any classroom where an individual has reported a positive case.

- Mrs. Reynolds also briefly discussed the monkey pox virus. She shared that the school nurses have received training from the Brazoria County Health Department as well as the Harris County Public Health on the signs and symptoms of monkey pox, and ways to prevent the spread of the virus. Mrs. Reynolds explained that the same precautions we have in place to prevent the spread of COVID will also prevent the spread of monkey pox.

6. Pearland ISD Wellness Policy

- Dr. Nixon introduced the Pearland ISD Wellness Plan and shared that the SHAC will review the document and provide any recommendations to Dr. Nixon for consideration. This year the SHAC will also review the Wellness Plan audit for each campus and the district that is required one time every three years.
- Dr. Nixon reviewed each of the topics included in the Wellness Plan including goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity, nutrition guidelines, and other school-based activities.
- The current Wellness Plan can be found here - [Microsoft Word - FFA\(R\) Wellness Plan April 2020 \(pearlandisd.org\)](#)

7. Next Meeting – Monday, November 7, 2022

- Dr. Nixon encouraged SHAC members to email her any topics they would like presented or discussed during a future SHAC meeting.