

Gholson ISD

Fall 2020 Back 2 School Plan

DRAFT

Gholson ISD will begin the school year on August 19, 2020. The school day will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 3:25 p.m. We are committed to the health and safety of every student and staff member, as well as our community. Texas Education Agency (TEA) has established extensive guidelines for public schools in Texas regarding reopening of schools. Below is a draft of Gholson ISD's plan regarding school for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan is subject to change based on additional guidance from Governor Abbott, TEA and other local, state and governing agencies.

Students' social and emotional well being are a top priority. We know that students need predictable routines and the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted our daily lives in numerous ways, therefore we have scheduled time each day for student connections. Our counselor and staff will work together with both students and families to ease the stress associated with COVID-19.

Options for Education

Gholson ISD will be offering two options for instruction: in-person on campus instruction or remote online instruction. Parents must select an instructional model on August 5 in a survey that will be sent out via email blast. Students will be expected to continue in the chosen instructional model for a minimum of one 6 week grading period.

The commissioner has indicated that paper based packets alone, that were sufficient in Spring of 2020, would not meet the rigorous expectations for remote instruction and that all remote learning must have the same grading policies as those used on campus.

On-Campus Instruction - Learning occurs in a traditional classroom setting with a teacher on campus. The school day begins at 7:30 am and ends at 3:25 pm.

- Implementation of preventative safety measures occurs throughout the day. Please see the prevention, response and mitigation section for on campus safety measures.
- Students and teachers will prepare for potential future distance/remote learning by increasing blended (face-to-face with technology) learning opportunities. Teachers will directly instruct students on the processes to access online instruction.
- Should students participating in on-campus instruction be required to quarantine, learning will continue through remote at-home learning for the duration of the quarantine period.

Remote Virtual Instruction - Students receive instruction in a completely online environment. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, video lessons, or app-based learning tasks that students complete on their own. Based upon the guidance from the state, the virtual instruction beginning in Fall of 2020 will require a much higher level of rigor, workload, and time commitment from the virtual learning that occurred in the Spring of 2020.

- Remote students will be required to sign in and work online daily Monday through Friday in each class with evidence of progress made, teacher interaction, and assignments submitted.
- Virtual instruction will require support from adults at home and within the online classroom environment. Teachers will lead instruction, however parents must support learning at home.
- All instruction will be delivered online through Schoology or Google Classroom and will require an internet connection and device.
- The GISD teacher will communicate learning expectations in the district learning management system, Schoology or Google Classroom.
- All students receiving virtual instruction will be required to adhere to teacher-defined due dates with standard late-work penalties.
- GISD teachers will provide feedback to students and use district grading guidelines on all assignments.
- Curriculum and resources used are specifically designed for a virtual environment and align to district expectations / scope and sequence of the curriculum.
- Students will be expected to participate in district /state assessments to document student learning and growth as required by the State (STAAR).
- Attendance will be taken daily to fulfill local and state requirements. Students that are not “actively engaged” in each class daily, must be counted absent. Scheduled virtual meetings with students must be attended for attendance purposes.
- In order for students to be awarded course credit, the student must be in attendance for at least 90% of the days each course is offered. This means that students must work and show engagement in each course daily.
- Some CTE courses require hands-on experiences. These courses will not be available through remote virtual instruction.
- Due to rigor and participation expectations of virtual instruction, each student will need their own device and access to high speed internet at home. * *Families indicating, through the survey, they wish to have virtual instruction, will be contacted to discuss device needs and expectations of online learning.*
- Students that choose remote virtual instruction will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities and certain elective courses.
- Free and reduced students who choose remote virtual instruction will have the opportunity to pick up meals from the school. More information will be shared at a later date.
- Beginning October 5, 2020, remote students with poor attendance, lack of instructional engagement or failing a course, will no longer be eligible for remote learning. This is in the best interest of the student as they have demonstrated that they are not successful with a remote model. Parents of unsuccessful/unengaged remote students have the following educational options available:

- Return your student to in class on campus instruction
- Complete the proper paperwork to withdraw your student to home school
- Enroll your student in a private school
- Request transfer status in a district that will offer your child remote instruction
- In order to ensure accurate measures of student knowledge of material and in fairness to grades, remote students will be required to come on campus for all major exams/tests to be proctored beginning Tuesday, October 13. Teachers will notify students when they need to test. If students do not arrive for their scheduled tests nor contact their teachers to make arrangements *prior* to the scheduled test day, they will be counted absent and receive a zero test grade. Each household has been assigned one day a week for testing so there will be no more than 4 total students in the testing room at any given time. The testing will be proctored in the library. Students will report directly to the library so that they will not have contact with other students or staff. Masks will be required and students will complete a COVID screening, including a temperature check, prior to entering the library. Students will need to bring any supplies needed to test (pencil, paper, etc.). Parents will need to drop their students off and pick up their students after testing is completed. We will call parents as needed when students are finished with their assigned tests.

Prevention, Response & Mitigation Efforts

PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access

1. All Gholson ISD teachers and staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day, including taking their temperature. Teachers and staff must report to administration if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to administration if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the 14-day incubation period has passed.
2. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and instead should opt to receive remote instruction until the below conditions for re-entry are met. Parents may also opt to have their students receive remote instruction if their child has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19 until the 14-day incubation period has passed. Students may be periodically screened for COVID-19 which may include temperature checks.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

1. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - a. In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - b. In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
 - c. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- Any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be immediately separated until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- The areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) will be thoroughly cleaned as soon as possible.
- Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, Gholson ISD administration will notify the local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. Areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) will be closed off until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school will be notified if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities.

MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School

Operational Considerations:

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

- Gholson ISD will have hand sanitizer available in every classroom, on buses and at each building entrance.
- Gholson ISD students, teachers, and staff are required to sanitize and/or wash hands when entering a bus, building, classroom or office.
- Gholson ISD will incorporate supervised handwashing and sanitizing into daily schedules. Students will be taught good handwashing techniques to include at least 20 seconds of rubbing soap on hands before rinsing.
- Students, teachers, and staff will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.
- On the first day a student attends school on campus, Gholson ISD will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted by our district.

- Water fountains will be closed to student use. Students will be allowed to bring water bottles or leak proof containers (water only) that students will keep with them throughout the school day. A staff member will assist any student that needs to refill their water during the day.
- Lockers in the halls will not be available for use. Students in grades 6-12 will need to have all needed supplies in their backpacks. Students will be provided space in each classroom to store textbooks as needed. Textbooks will not be shared.

Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

- The entire campus was deep cleaned during the summer months, prior to school opening.
- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- All frequently touched areas such as door handles, common tables/desks, keyboards, etc. will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day.
- Interior classroom doors will be open and classroom fans will be encouraged to improve airflow, as long as this does not pose a threat to the safety of students and staff.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks

- Gholson ISD is required to comply with the governor's executive order regarding the wearing of masks. All students in grades 4-12 and all adults will be required to wear face masks or cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). Students in pre-k through third grade will not be required to wear face coverings, but it is recommended, at the parents discretion. **FACEMASKS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!**
- Students in grades 4-12 with a medical condition precluding them from wearing a face covering must have a doctor's note stating that they cannot wear one. Parent notes will not be accepted.
- Full-face shields may be used in place of masks to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face.
- In addition to the executive order, Gholson ISD may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
- It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some non-UIL athletic or other extracurricular activities. When it is impractical for students to wear masks or face shields during those activities, Gholson ISD must require students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks or face shields when entering and exiting facilities and practice areas and when not actively engaging in those activities. Gholson ISD may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students, teachers, and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields. However, Gholson ISD must require students, teachers, and staff to wear masks or face shields as they arrange themselves in positions that will allow them to maintain safe distancing.
- **Reusable masks must be washed after each use.** The CDC recommends using the warmest water setting for washing with usual laundry and the highest heat setting for drying. Sharing of masks, even with other family members, is extremely risky and discouraged.

- Parents should purchase reusable masks as part of their student's school supplies. Gholson ISD will have masks available for emergency situations only. Parents are strongly encouraged to provide additional masks so that students have one for each day of the week.

Student-Teacher Groupings

- Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, Gholson ISD students will be encouraged to practice social distancing.
- Student desks will be physically distanced as feasible. In instances where students are regularly within six feet of one another, Gholson ISD will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.
- Students will be screened daily before entering the school buildings. Faculty and staff will self screen daily.
- There will not be any school assemblies such as pep rallies.

Use of Non-Classroom Spaces

- Grab and go breakfast will be served in alternative locations. **Locations subject to change.**
PK-2 Breakfast in classrooms @ 7:30
3-4 Breakfast in library @ 7:30
5-7 Breakfast in cafeteria @ 7:30
8-12 Breakfast in gym @ 7:30
Students need to report to the above locations when arriving on campus.
- Staggered grab and go lunches served in the cafeteria. *Students PK-5 enter and exit through the cafeteria door near the admin building. Students in 6-12 enter and exit through the door by bus drive through.*
- Lockers in the halls will not be available for use. Students in grades 6-12 will need to have all needed supplies in their backpacks. Students will be provided space in each classroom to store textbooks as needed. Textbooks will not be shared.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separates individuals to the greatest extent possible. When transitioning between classes, students shall travel corridors as far to the right as possible. Staff and signage will be posted to reinforce physical distance expectations.
- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum physical distance between students.
- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting of equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc.

Transportation

- To reduce possible virus exposure on buses, parents are encouraged to provide transportation for students to the extent possible.
- Gholson ISD will require all students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.

- Gholson ISD will require all students and staff to wear face masks while on bus.
- Gholson ISD buses will open windows as often as possible to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.
- Buses will be cleaned daily and between routes.
- Students may be assigned seats as necessary to physically distance students from different households.
- Buses will be running routes approximately 20 minutes later than last year to arrive on campus at 7:25.

Visits to Schools

- Gholson ISD will restrict visits to only those essential to school operations.
- Parents may not accompany students into the building at any time.
- If you need to pick up your child during the school day, please remain in your vehicle and call the office when you arrive. A staff member will escort your child to you.
- There will be no outside delivery of lunches by anyone. If you do not want your child to eat the meal provided by the school, please send your students lunch with him/her in the morning.
- All parent teacher conferences will be held via phone or zoom.

Athletic Events

- 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. Physical distancing will be required for attendance.

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache

- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

Screening Questionnaire Information

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, school systems must only require the individual to provide a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation. School systems are not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic.
2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, school systems must destroy those individuals’ responses.

We appreciate your patience and support. Rest assured that Gholson ISD is fully committed to delivering a quality education in the safest environment for your child. This plan is subject to change at any time due to additional guidance from governing agencies or address improvements. Please email any questions you may have to office@gholsonisd.net. We will compile questions and send out a frequently asked questions email at a later date.