

Terrell ISD FAQ: COVID-19

Terrell ISD continues to closely monitor the situation surrounding COVID-19 and remains in close contact with local and state officials as well as area superintendents. New information is emerging daily, so we ask that families please continue to extend their grace and patience with us as we navigate this unprecedented time. We will update and add to the following questions and answers as updates and new information becomes available. If you have a question that is not addressed below, please send an email to info@terrellisd.org.

1. How will we be notified of changes and updates regarding school closure and at-home learning?

Terrell ISD will continue to use multiple platforms to address parents, students, and community regarding school closure, operational adjustments, and possible at-home learning including Remind, Facebook, email, automated phone calls, and our district website. On Monday, March 23, all Terrell ISD students and parents will be contacted via phone in order to gain more information about support needed for at home learning and food service. Parents can send any questions to info@terrellisd.org. All campus offices will be closed; however, we will have an operator to answer questions and take messages daily from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If they are not able to answer your question, you will receive a call back from appropriate staff within 24 hours.

2. How will meals be provided to students?

All students will have access to meals. On Monday, March 23 through Wednesday, March 25, we will have pick up meals at Furlough Middle School and Gilbert Willie Elementary. Students MUST BE PRESENT in order to pick up the meals. Students may arrive on foot and are not required to be in vehicles to receive meals. Food service is provided for all students of TISD and all children ages 1-18. Beginning on Thursday, March 26, the district will use our regular bus routes to deliver two meals daily to students. The delivery will be made without contact. The bus will arrive at the home and honk, staff will alert the family we are present, provide the meal, and, staying at least six feet away, make certain the child and family are well. Staff will collect notes and then return those notes to central office for support of family needs during closure. To be added to the bus delivery route, please email fpierce@ridegst.com.

3. What is the plan for learning?

Parents, we are here to support you! We encourage you to set up a space for learning in your home. In this space, have paper and pen/pencil, crayons or map pencils, and a computer/tablet/phone with internet access (if available).

For March 23 through March 27:

TISD will be posting a daily suggested schedule for PreK-2 students, 3rd-5th grade students, middle school students, and high school students. The daily schedule will include:

- At least 30 minutes of reading
- Writing a daily reflection (we will post journal ideas)
- At least 30 minutes of daily exercise
- At least 60 minutes of other academic work chosen from resources provided in our At-Home Learning website or engaging in learning at parent's direction--this is a great time to learn to cook, to sew on buttons, to read up on current events, to practice a musical instrument, to learn a new board game, or to learn other home skills.

Additionally, beginning on Tuesday, March 24, TISD will have hourly Facebook Live Educational Events beginning at 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Tune in to see a science experiment, hear a story, think through a math problem, or do some exercises! Your amazing TISD staff will be hosting these events--oh, what we will learn!

Beginning March 30:

TISD will be delivering instructional packets via U.S. Mail for some grade levels and distributing Chromebooks via check-out system for students who need a device at home (along with Internet options or hotspots). TISD teachers will be posting assignments in Google Classroom, communicating by Zoom, Class Dojo, and communicating by telephone with students. TISD teachers will communicate office hours in which they will be available.

Students will have 2-3 assignments per week per content area to complete. Teachers will grade on the following scale: Making Progress, Making Limited Progress, Making No Progress.

4. What if I don't have the internet or a computer/digital device at home?

On Monday, March 23, you will receive a phone call from one of your TISD teachers. Let him/her know about your needs for the internet and computer/digital device. We are working with providers to get internet service for you at home while we are engaging in at-home learning. We will also be able to check out a computer for you to use during closure. We will have our computers checked out to students who have a need by Friday, March 27.

5. What will happen with graduation?

It is too soon to make a decision about graduation. The district has established a Graduation Committee to formulate plans in the event that we are unable to host a traditional graduation. We will make certain that the class of 2020 has a graduation celebration, even if it is not traditional.

6. What will happen with prom?

It is too soon to make a decision about prom.

7. What will happen with STAAR tests?

On March 16, the governor waived STAAR testing for the state of Texas for 2019-20. If a graduating senior is still needing to pass STAAR tests, he/she will be able to sit for an Individual Graduation Committee (IGC). Children currently enrolled in EOC tested subjects will essentially be given a waiver for the test for the remainder of their high school career if they are currently passing the course. Our teachers will be reaching out to students to ensure that they have support to successfully complete our EOC courses: English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, U.S. History, and Biology.

8. What will happen with dual credit classes at TVCC?

TVCC will be transitioning to an online learning environment to continue dual credit courses. TVCC will have an extended spring break next week (March 23-27) so that their instructors can prepare for this transition. TVCC spring 2020 16-week classes will resume online for students on Monday, March 30th in the online format only. Details on how students can communicate/meet with their face-to-face instructors and/or access their revamped courses will be provided to students early next week through their TVCC email accounts. TVCC professors will be reaching out to students regarding the specific expectations for their particular course by Tuesday, March 31. We will provide more information to those students enrolled in dual credit as it becomes available.

9. What will happen with class rank and GPA for seniors?

For our high school students and middle school students in high school courses for credit, we intend to freeze class rank and GPA as of Friday, March 13 for purposes of calculating class rank.

10. How are we cleaning and sanitizing our buildings?

Using our professional custodial service, we deep-cleaned all schools using electrostatic (e-mist) system using Virex-256, a CDC approved disinfectant. Our custodial staff and maintenance teams continue to work using social distancing practices. Touchpoints, such as desks, doors, and other high touch areas, are being cleaned and sanitized frequently and will continue to be. We will continue with e-misting at every campus location weekly.

11. What do I do if my child(ren) show signs of illness?

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Chills

- Body aches
- Runny nose
- Cough

Should your child or a family member exhibit these symptoms, medical professionals are advising that you call your family doctor. Your family doctor will determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19. For the vast majority of cases, people will recover at home with fluids, over the counter medication, and rest. Medical guidance from Kaufman County has indicated we want to keep hospitals and emergency rooms clear to handle the most difficult cases and other medical emergencies.

12. What do I tell my child(ren) about the virus and how do I help them understand what is happening?

Please see the resources below to help with discussing COVID-19 with your children.

- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/10-tips-for-talking-about-covid-19-with-your-kids>
- [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

13. What if I need counseling support for my child?

If you have a counseling need for your child during the school closure, please reach out to info@terrellisd.org with the name of your child, campus, and your concern. A counselor will contact you.

14. What if I think my child is sick and has a fever, but I don't have access to a thermometer?

If you have a need for your child to see a school nurse due to possible fever, cough, or trouble breathing, our school nurses will be able to provide wellness checks. Email info@terrellisd.org with the name of your child, your address, your phone number, and your request for a nurse visit. A nurse will contact you to schedule a home visit.

15. How will my child receive support for special education and/or dyslexia?

These are unprecedented times; the guidance we receive from TEA and other agencies has been changing daily. On Monday Special Education and/or dyslexia staff will be reaching out to parents to determine the best way to proceed in continuing to provide the supplemental services that are in their students' current IEP and/or 504 plan. Any future ARD/504 meetings that may need to be held will be through phone conferencing. Special Education/Dyslexia staff will also be reaching out to children who are served to check on progress. Special education teachers will be providing accommodations and materials to the TISD general learning plan.

16. My family's financial status has changed; do I qualify for free and reduced lunch and breakfast now?

Every child in TISD will receive access to two meals daily during the period of school closure regardless of free and reduced status. If your family's financial status has changed, you can complete the application for free and reduced lunch here:

<https://www.mealappnow.com/manter/splash.php>

17. Does the district need any volunteers to help deliver or serve food?

We appreciate the request of so many in our community to help. We want to limit contact and follow our district and federal procedures and guidelines, so at this time, our TISD staff will manage food preparation and delivery. If your business/organization is providing aid/relief to students and families and would like to be listed on the TISD website, [please fill out this form](#).

18. What, if any options will there be for families who need childcare?

The following Daycare Providers will be open and available to enroll students:

- 1) Children's Depot Learning 400 9th, Street, Terrell, Texas (Jenny, Director/Contact) (972)524-1022
- 2) Smart Start Learning Center, 100 FM 429 North, Terrell, Texas (Linda, Director/Contact) 972-524-0071; Accepting 5yrs and Older

19. I want to help others; how can we help?

The District is incredibly grateful for the many offers to help during this time of need. One easy way to provide immediate help to the community is to donate the following items to the Terrell Share Center (103 Jones Street Terrell, TX): shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels, children lunch items. If your business/organization is offering services/aid to students and families and would like to be listed on a Community Resource guide on the TISD website, [please complete this form](#).

20. I already paid my tuition for PreK for March. Will I get a refund?

TISD will prorate March PreK tuition for parents who pay for PreK. Parents will receive a reimbursement from the district based on the days of service for March.

21. Do I need to pay my April PreK tuition?

At this time, we are not accepting payments for April PreK tuition. We will prorate the April tuition and communicate the updated amount due once we resume regular instruction at school.

22. Will students have to make up the days we miss in the summer?

We have additional minutes in our instructional calendar that will allow TISD to make-up two bad weather days built into the calendar. For any other days of at-home learning,

TISD will submit an attestation to the Texas Education Agency. We do not anticipate that students will have to “make up” days at the end of the year as we are supporting at-home learning.

23. How will attendance be taken during at-home learning?

We will be making a connection call at least once per week to check-in personally with students. Teachers will be monitoring work and marking if students are making progress. Formal attendance taking will not resume until we resume regular operations.

24. How will Advanced Placement testing work?

- a. <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>
- b. “The AP Program is developing resources to help schools support student learning during extended closures, as well as a solution that would allow students to test at home, depending on the situation in May. Additional information will be posted by March 20. We will announce portfolio submission deadline extensions for AP 2-D Art and Design, 3-D Art and Design, Computer Science Principles, Drawing, Research, and Seminar courses by March 20. Schools do not need to call AP Services for Educators to request these extensions.”

25. What if my child already paid for a field trip that is cancelled?

We are looking into the possibility of reimbursing or rescheduling trips that were cancelled. We will have more information on this soon and will post here.

26. What if I don't feel safe for my child to return to school?

Once school resumes, if you do not feel safe for your child to return to school due to concerns regarding COVID-19, please keep the child at home and provide documentation to the school that concern of COVID-19 is the reason for the child's absence. If you kept your child home prior to March 13 due to concerns of COVID-19, please let your campus know via email.

27. How will this impact the Global Leadership Academy application and academic screening process?

The GLA application review committee will meet next week to discuss how the school closure will impact our application review timeline. We will provide updates to the timeline and information regarding the screening process on the GLA's webpage on the District website.

28. I am not receiving district updates by at least one of the following methods (Remind, email, automated phone calls) and would like to be added to contact lists. What do I need to do?

Please [log into your Parent Portal account](#) to update your contact information. To receive immediate updates via email, [please complete the following form](#).

To receive District Remind announcements please text the campus code listed below to the number 81010.

- TERRELL ISD (Entire District): Text @terrellisd to 81010
- W.H BURNETT: Text @whburnett to 81010
- GILBERT WILLIE: Text @gwelem to 81010
- DR. BRUCE WOOD: Text @drbrucew to 81010
- J.W. LONG: Text @jwlongelem to 81010
- GLA: Text @tisdglobal to 81010
- FURLOUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL: Text @furloughms to 81010
- TERRELL HIGH SCHOOL: Text @terrellhs to 81010
- TAEC: Text @d342e to 81010

29. How does my student access their school email address?

All students have a Terrell ISD email address. The email address is:
student ID number@terrellisd.org

Example: 098765@terrellisd.org

30. How do I enroll in or withdraw from Terrell ISD during the school closure?

If you need to enroll in Terrell ISD during the school closure, call TISD at 972-563-7504 between 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM. We will help you walk through the on-line enrollment procedure and connect you to your campus principal. Your campus principal will connect your child(ren) to their new teachers, and we will make sure you have all you need to begin at-home learning.

Should you need to withdraw during this time of school closure, please call TISD at 972-563-7504. We will ask you to bring any materials you have from the district (Chromebook, books, etc) to central office at 700 N. Catherine Street by appointment. We will assist you in the withdrawal process during the appointment.