



Junction Independent School District

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RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN (RIPICS)

The purpose of this plan is to outline the Junction Independent School District (JISD) operational protocols and procedures for returning to in-person instruction for the 2021 - 2022 school year. This plan includes an explanation of how ESSER funds will support students and staff. The goal of this plan is to support JISD in providing a safe environment for staff, students, and guests during in-person instruction and to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. This plan also addresses the continuity of services should JISD have to close a classroom, building or the district due to Covid-19.

RATIONALE FOR RIPICS PLAN

Best practices regarding Covid-19 are subject to change pending any state and Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidance; especially with emerging strains such as the Delta Variant. While JISD will follow these guidelines as closely as possible, there could be extenuating circumstances that alter the actions taken. JISD is committed to doing the best it can during the continuation of this pandemic.

For more information about the foundation of the JISD RIPICS plan, please go to: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>

For information about symptoms go to: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html

JISD will actively monitor our COVID-19 status and make changes via guidance from the Governor's Executive Orders, TEA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

ESSER II & III FUNDS

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Education has released three grants for schools to apply for through TEA. These grants, known as ESSER I, ESSER II and ESSER III were authorized by the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act); the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA); and the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The purpose of the emergency relief funds is to address the impact that COVID-19 has had and continues to have on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

JISD plans to use these ESSER funds to address learning loss, improve operations and services, and support student health needs.

ESSER purchases will include (but are not limited to):

Learning Loss:

Junction ISD budgeted \$266,232. This is 20% of the JISD ESSER III funds, which is required by statute to be set aside to address student learning loss. In addition, JISD budgeted \$ 1,054,929 to support Learning Loss, Student Health, Support and Student Instruction to align with Use of Funds Components #2, #3 and #4.

Improving Operations:

Junction ISD budgeted \$10,000 for possible operation's needs.

Support Student Health Needs:

JISD budgeted \$ 1,054,929 for expenses relating to Learning Loss, Student Health, Support and Student Instruction to align with the Use of Funds Components # 2, #3 and #4.

ESSER 3 Grant	Initial 2/3 Awarded	Remaining 1/3
\$1,996,741	\$1,331,161	665,580
	\$266,232 (20%)	

SAFETY

- Provide Notice - Requirements to provide notice to those impacted by a test - confirmed COVID-19 positive staff member or student
- Prevent - Required practices by staff, students, and visitors to prevent/minimize COVID-19 from entering the schools
- Respond - Follow requirements to respond to a positive test - confirmed case in school
- Mitigate - Recommend and require practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in school

PROVIDE NOTICE - ATTENDANCE AND ENROLLMENT

- JISD will only offer one model of instruction for the 2021 - 2022 school year - In Person Instruction
 - In person learners will be marked "present" per the official attendance time and JISD attendance and local and legal policy
- For COVID positive/Doctor Quarantine Cases:
 - We must have medical documentation stating a student/staff member needs to be quarantined due to Covid 19:
 - Option 1: Doctor's note saying quarantine is needed
 - Option 2: Positive COVID-19 test

PREVENT

VISITORS:

- Visitors will be allowed on campus
- Visitors must meet two requirements:
 - Be COVID-19 Symptom Free
 - Not live with or interact daily with someone who is COVID-19 Positive
- Visitors are welcome to wear a face mask if they so desire

STUDENTS:

- Campus staff will monitor student well-being. Any student displaying COVID-19 type symptoms will be referred to the school nurse for screening

STAFF:

- Campus staff will self monitor. At any time during the day if they begin to feel unwell or display COVID-19 symptoms they will report immediately to the campus supervisor and seek screening from the school nurse

CLOSE CONTACT:

- Close contacts will be identified and contacted
- Close contacts will be asked to monitor symptoms and may choose to quarantine
- Students who choose to quarantine will be treated as they are absent for any other illness
- Employees who choose to quarantine will use their own leave time (just like with any other illness)

We must provide a free, public and appropriate education to ALL students. Therefore, as long as students meet the return to school guidelines, then they can attend in-person learning.

RESPOND

In order for JISD to classify a student as a COVID-19 absence, we must have a test result from a testing facility, doctor's office, or the school nurse from the k-12 Testing Program. We can not verify that an at-home test kit is administered in a valid manner.

Possible Positive COVID-19 Case in JISD

- Student
 - Teacher notifies school nurse
 - Nurse notifies campus principal and parent
 - School nurse will report positive case or cases to TEA in weekly submission and will submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services
- Staff
 - Staff member notifies administrator and school nurse
 - Administrator notifies people that have come into close contact
 - Nurse notifies positive case or cases to TEA in weekly submission and will submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services
 - Staff member follows all protocols

- Return to School
Any student or staff who is test-confirmed COVID-19 positive must meet one of the following conditions before they can return to school:
 - Meets all three of the following conditions:
 - At least 24 hours with no fever (without medication)
 - Symptoms have improved
 - 10 days have passed since symptoms appeared
- OR
- You have obtained a negative COVID-19 test result and 7 days have passed since symptoms appeared
- Remote Instruction
 - Classroom teachers may set up remote instruction via Google Classroom only if a student is required to quarantine at home for the full 10 day period, due to a COVID-19 positive test, so the student does not fall behind. This can only be for the required 10 day period. JISD does not offer remote/virtual learning option other than for this circumstance. (10 day quarantine period starts on the day symptoms appeared and not on the day of the COVID-19 positive test result.)

MITIGATE

- Stay at home if you are sick
- Be mindful of your personal space
- Wash your hands often
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently (staff will do)
- JISD custodial staff will continue to disinfect all areas on a daily basis
- Individuals handling medical needs and food for students will follow standard protocols from state and federal guidelines
- Drinking fountains are closed
- Students may use the water bottle refill stations
- Vehicles and buses will be cleaned daily