Alpine ISD 2021-2022 Safe Return Plan

Safely Engaging Students and Staff

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June 2022
December 2022
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Introduction and District Priorities

Alpine ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 25, 2021. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide excellent education to our students. We have been planning for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year with a focus on continuity of services.

Our plan follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and state and local health officials.

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention Website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools.html.

Texas Education Agency Website: https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance

Alpine ISD is honored to provide education to the children in our district and we look forward to a successful school year.

KEY PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS

- Educational Excellence
- Emotional Wellness
- Public Health and Safety
- Instructional Continuity
- Communication

GUIDANCE

Throughout the ongoing efforts of reopening our district, Alpine ISD will continue to respond to guidance from:

FEDERAL
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

STATE
• The Office of the Texas Governor
• Texas Department of Health and Human Services
• Texas Education Agency (TEA)
• University Interscholastic League (UIL)

LOCAL
• Brewster County COVID-19 Management Team
• Alpine ISD Re-Engaging Students and Staff Task Force

Section 1 Health and Safety Standards

Alpine ISD will follow the CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phase Prevention guidance for health and safety standards and the Texas Education Agency Public Health Guidance. The latest CDC guidance is available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html. The latest TEA guidance is available at https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf.

Alpine ISD will follow Executive Order no. GA-38. Effective July 29, 2021, relating to the continued response to the COVID-19 disaster.

Health and Safety of Students, Educators, Staff

On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems must provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system. To include the practice of covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover cough or sneeze with 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.

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Alpine ISD will follow Executive Order no. GA-36. Effective 11:59 p.m. on June 4, 2021, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor may be required to wear a face covering.

Individuals choosing to wear a face covering are advised to follow the Center for Disease Control's universal and correct use of masks guidance.

Facilities - Physical Distancing

Core principle for physical distancing:

Between students in classrooms

- Elementary school students should be at least 3 feet apart.
- Middle schools and high schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart in areas of low, moderate, or substantial community transmission. In areas of high community transmission, middle and high school students should be 6 feet apart if cohorting is not possible.

Maintain 6 feet of distance in the following settings:

- Between adults (teachers and staff), and between adults and students, at all times in the school building.
- During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise.
- In common areas such as school lobbies and auditoriums.

Remove nonessential furniture and make other changes to classroom layouts to maximize distance between students.

Face desks in the same direction, where possible.

Clear Dividers available upon request.

Eliminate or decrease nonessential in-person interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches, and other situations that could lead to adult-to-adult transmission.

Visitors: Visitors will be required to check in with the main office and asked to physically distance from others when possible.

Transportation: Create distance between children on school buses when possible. Open windows to improve ventilation when it does not create a safety hazard.

Bus Disinfecting Protocol
- **Between each AM & PM Routes**
    - o Disinfecting spray and wipe down high touch items with disinfecting wipes**.**
- **Weekly Disinfecting Process**
    - o Spray buses with disinfecting spray and wipe down high touch items with disinfecting wipes.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students, teachers, and staff. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used.

Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Some students with disabilities might need assistance with handwashing and respiratory etiquette behaviors.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing and Disinfecting Expectations

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.
- Disinfecting wipes will be provided in all classrooms and offices to use for all high-touch areas.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.

Disinfecting Expectations

- Staff will have access to disinfectant solutions to clean high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects frequently.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible.

Cleaning and Maintaining Facilities

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Cafeterias will be disinfected between lunch times.
- Staff and students will have access to disinfecting items to sanitize working surfaces, shared objects, and high-touch areas after use and during breaks in instruction.

Restrooms

- Staff should attempt to limit the number of students that enter the bathroom at one time to comply with health agency recommendations and social distancing.
- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day. Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the bathroom.

Disinfecting

- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, the area will be fogged and disinfected. One or more of the following disinfectants will be used and are recommended for use on the virus that causes COVID-19:
    - Viru-Cide
    - Re-Juv-Nal
    - Husky 891Arena
- Custodial staff will fog and disinfect classrooms, restrooms, athletics, fine arts areas and all additional areas throughout the school facility on a weekly basis.

Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting Agents

Cleaning-Sanitizing-Disinfecting Agents (and links to MSDS information sheets)
Disinfecting Materials for Fogging and Spraying • Viru-Cide • Re-Juv-Nal • Husky 891Arena
Disinfecting Spray • Clorox Disinfecting Spray
Disinfecting Cleaners • Envy Foaming Disinfectant Cleaner • Lysol Foaming Disinfectant Cleaner
Disinfecting Wipes • Sani-Wipe Sanitizing Multi-Surface Wipes • Boardwalk Disinfecting Wipes • Clorox Disinfecting Wipes
Hand Sanitizers • Aktive Antimicrobial Hand Sanitizer • Symmetry Foaming Hand Sanitizer • Rubanz Hand Gel Sanitizer

Contact Tracing

Alpine ISD will follow TEA Public Health Guidance for contact tracing.
https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf

Alpine ISD will ensure compliance with applicable laws related to privacy and the collection/sharing of this information.

- Students and staff diagnosed with COVID-19 should isolate and stay away from the school/campuses until requirements for end of isolation are met.
- Positive COVID-19 cases will be reported to the health department, in accordance with applicable privacy and other laws.
- Close contacts and families of close contacts will be notified in accordance with applicable privacy and other laws, of exposure as soon as possible.

Diagnostic and Screening

Screening Protocols
- Staff members are asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily prior to arrival at the campuses
- Any staff member who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must contact their immediate supervisor as soon as the symptoms are noticed.
- Parents/guardians are asked to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms each day, prior to sending them to school and before they ride a bus.
    - Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.
- Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- All visitors are asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before entering any Alpine ISD facility.
- Staff, students, and visitors should not enter campuses or district buildings if any of the following apply.

    - Were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.
    - Provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
    - Had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them).
    - Shared eating or drinking utensils.
    - Sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate and will be permitted to return to school when:

    - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
    - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
    - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations

Alpine ISD will coordinate with the Texas Department of State Health Services, Public Health Region 9/10 and local health providers to provide COVID-19 vaccinations per current guidelines.

Health and Safety Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Alpine ISD will follow ARD Committee and 504 Plan recommendations for children with disabilities.

The CDC recommends the following practices to prevent infection:
- Wear a mask.
- Stay at least 6 feet from people who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Wash your hands often, or use hand sanitizer made with at least 60% alcohol.

Section 2 Continuity of Services

This fall, Alpine ISD will continue instructional practices to provide consistency and ensure the safety of students and staff.

Campus instructional schedules are as follows:

- **Alpine High School – 7:51 am – 3:45 pm**
- **Alpine Middle School – 7:45 am – 3:35 pm**
- **Alpine Elementary School – 7:50 am – 3:40 pm**

Alpine ISD is committed to ensuring that students have an equitable experience and access to high quality instruction:

- Alpine ISD will utilize the strategies and best practices to design learning activities for all students.
- Learning experiences are designed to meet the needs of the learner.
- Students will engage in high quality learning experiences aligned to Alpine ISD curriculum and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

Instruction

Students and teachers will attend class in-person, five days a week, with additional safety measures in alignment with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.

- In this setting, teachers will provide in-person instruction, learning resources and support utilizing Google Classroom if applicable.
- District-directed and campus-designed safety procedures will be implemented.
- Scheduling for In-Person Learning
    - Grades PK-2 – Self-contained schedule with some rotations
    - Grades 3-4 – Schedules assigned based on grade level specific requirements
    - Grades 5-8 – Schedules assigned based on grade level specific requirements
    - Grades 9-12 – Schedules assigned based on their course selections.

Teachers can design small group time to differentiate instruction within the instructional block.

Intervention and Enrichment
Intervention, enrichment, and tutorial time will be scheduled regularly for students to best meet their academic needs. During this time, students may engage in assigned group activities, project-based learning activities, small group or individual instruction. Teachers will communicate with students and parents their plan for the designated time.

Special Education Support

ARD Committees will determine the unique needs of students who receive special education services. The nature of special education interventions will likely require a heavier concentration to ensure that individual student needs are met. Progress will be carefully monitored and ARD Committees will convene as needed to make appropriate recommendations to meet individual student needs. This will ensure continued growth in the general education curriculum and on IEP goals and objectives.

Alpine ISD is committed to providing consistency in high quality instruction and learning tools for all students.

INSTRUCTIONAL ROLES

Preparation for Learning	
Student	• Be prepared for learning each day and have work and assignments completed and ready. • Complete coursework by deadline set by teachers. • Check district assigned email each day. • Ensure you are receiving class and district communications via Remind. If not, contact your teacher/campus.
Parent	• Access parent resources to learn how students will navigate Google Classroom: Grades 3-12 and Grades PK- 2 will utilize packets, if being used by the teacher. • Encourage your child to have their appropriate supplies in their backpack, including their device, the night before. • Help your child check their district assigned email each day, possibly multiple times each day. • Ensure you are receiving district communications via Remind. If not, contact the campus.
Teacher	• Meet face-to-face, at least once daily, with collaborative team to plan instruction for all students. • Utilize the district curriculum documents and follow the Year at a Glance (YAG) and Scope and Sequence Documents. • Communicate with parents regularly. • Upload daily/weekly instructional materials into Google Classroom: Grades 3-12, Grades PK- 2 will utilize packets, at teacher's discretion. • Be prepared to teach daily lessons.

Learning & Teaching Expectations	
Student	- Attend classes according to school schedule and give your best efforts in your school assignments. - Participate in learning activities as instructed by teachers. - Be organized in your work and in getting projects completed. - Ask questions and communicate with your teacher. - Be aware of what you should be learning each day. - Become familiar with the structure of Google Classroom: Grades 3-12 and Grades PK- 2 will utilize packets, and how your teacher organizes information, if being used by the teacher. - Turn in assignments on time.
Parent	- Access Parent Portal (grades 1-12) to view student grades. - Keep open communication with PK and Kindergarten teachers for grades. - Check in with student(s) to monitor completion of homework and assignments. - Discuss your child's favorite part of their day and what they learned in school. - Facilitate academic support and encouragement as a learning partner to motivate and guide your child throughout the school year. - Maintain communication with your child's teacher by phone, email, Remind, and/or online meetings to create a learning partnership. - Monitor and ask for evidence that your child is on track with assignments and coursework.
Teacher	- Teach students how to access learning materials through Google Classroom: Grades 3-12 and Grades PK- 2 will utilize packets, at teacher's discretion. - Provide instruction and facilitate learning throughout the day. - Manage resources to provide consistency and routines for students. - Provide clear learning goals for students. - Follow the expectations established across the district. - Check student assignments in a timely manner and give feedback in verbal or written form at a weekly minimum to provide next steps or necessary academic intervention/extension. - Post all grades weekly in accordance with district grading guidelines.

Support and Intervention	
Student	● Attend intervention/tutorial sessions as established by your teacher or school.
Parent	● Allow your child to attend intervention/tutorial sessions as needed. ● Assist in supporting your child's needs by communicating with the teacher. ● Help your child own their learning. Provide support and encouragement and expect your children to do their part.
Teacher	● Provide intervention or tutorial sessions as needed. ● Follow student IEPs/504 accommodations in all learning environments. ● Use data to pinpoint students' specific needs for enrichment and intervention. ● Monitor student progress with fidelity according to recommendations. ● Provide and communicate conference period for student/parent support. ● Attend and participate in professional learning.

LEARNING TOOLS

Information	
Device	- Students in PK-K and Kindergarten have access to an I-Pad to use in all learning environments. - Students in Grades 3-12 are issued a Chromebook to use in all learning environments. - Personal devices may be used. Please note – the Alpine ISD Technology Department will not be able to support the device.
Instructional Program	All teachers, grades PK-12, will have access to Google Classroom: Grades 3-12 and Grades PK- 2 use packets, as their primary learning management system. This will be utilized at the teacher's discretion.
Online Resources	- Teachers in PK-12 might enhance instruction through the use of online resources to engage students in high quality learning experiences. - Alpine ISD uses a SSO (single sign-on) website to access both learning management systems, software, and other resources: ClassLink. - Students will have access to online resources, textbooks and materials through ClassLink. - No resources, platforms or apps requiring student fees or an associated cost to the family will be required at any time.
Communication	- Communicating with teachers: - All teachers will establish and communicate conference period times. - Teachers will communicate with students and parents via Remind. - Respect personal time - contact should be limited to after 7:30 a.m. and before 5:00 p.m. as much as possible. - Students in Grades 3-12 will be provided a district managed email account. - All students grades PK-12 are assigned a Google account, which allows any student to login to a Chromebook. - These accounts should be utilized for all communication directly between teachers and students.

Technology	• Alpine ISD recognizes the need to ensure all students have reliable access to adequate technology resources in order to fully participate in academic programming. As such: • Learning devices will be provided to all students. • No deposit is required. • Parents are required to fill out the Alpine ISD Parent Electronic Device Contract. • Students and families are expected to follow guidelines for care and use in order to ensure these public resources are effectively maintained. • Relevant notifications, instructions, procedures, policies and processes are available on the Alpine ISD website and distributed via Remind and various social media outlets. • Personal devices may be used but are not recommended. Please note - the Alpine ISD Technology Department will not be able to support the device.

Cafeteria - Breakfast and Lunch

Based on building capacity and student enrollment, campus administration will determine areas that may be utilized for lunch. These areas could include classrooms, gyms, the library or other large areas within the school building.

Teachers will monitor the cafeteria and hallways to promote social distancing practices. Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines. Microwaves will be available for student use. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at entrances and exits of the cafeteria.

Standard Classroom Procedures

Classroom protocols and procedures will include expectations regarding not sharing school supplies, social distancing, and hand washing or sanitizing, etc. Teachers and staff will ensure high-touch areas in the classroom are wiped in between classes. Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:

- Visual reminders of distancing requirements.
- Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations.
- Access to disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.
- In classroom spaces that allow it, student seating/desks will be placed three feet apart.

Extracurricular Activities

All extracurricular practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol provided by guidance from Alpine ISD, UIL and TEA, per the most current guidelines available at: https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info/2021-2022-uil-risk-mitigation-guidelines

School Events and Activities

Guidelines for School Wide Events/Activities
- Administration and campuses will follow all Alpine ISD, UIL and CDC guidelines in regard to school wide events and activities.   - Most events will be livestreamed when possible.

Emergencies and Drills

Alpine ISD will continue to follow our Critical Incident Response Plan and our Emergency Operations Plan for all emergencies and drills.

Emergency Evacuation Protocols
Alpine ISD will take preventive safety actions to successfully fulfill our primary mission, which is educating students in a safe and secure environment. These preventative measures include planning, drilling and training for a variety of emergencies.
Alpine ISD continually self-assess our emergency management processes. Safety plans will be coordinated with our local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health department and fire department.
Evacuation, fire and lockdown drills will be conducted throughout the school year with social distancing when possible.
Actual Emergency Situation: Alpine ISD emphasizes that social distancing might not be required or followed during an actual emergency such as a fire, lockdown, shelter for dangerous weather, evacuation, etc.

Section 3 Plan Review

All revisions will be consistent with the most recent CDC and TEA requirements

Revision Date: December 7, 2021
Public Comment Period: December 7, 2021 - December 17, 2021

Revision Date: June 18, 2021
Public Comment Period: June 18, 2021 – June 29, 2021

Six-Month Review Dates:
June 2022
December 2022
June 2023

Section 4 Plan Accessibility

Published on Alpine ISD Website – www.alpine.esc18.net
Available in print format by contacting Caroline Fox, Director of Special Programs and Curriculum by phone at 837-7700 option 4, or by email at cfox@alpineisd.net, or in person at 704 W Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas 79830

Section 5 Stakeholder Planning Timeline

ESSER III Stakeholder Planning Timeline	
13-May-21	AISD Staff Survey
13-May-21	Community Survey on website
18-May-21	Student Input Meeting
26-May-21	ESSER III Parent/Community Meeting, AMS Cafeteria
27-May-21	Notice of Public Hearing for ESSER III in Alpine Avalanche
1-Jun-21	Leadership Team Planning Meeting
8-Jun-21	AISD School Board Meeting Public Hearing
10-Jun-21	Supt. Becky McCutchen newspaper article
13-Jun-21	ARP ESSER III Public Comment - on Website with Google Form
17-Jun-21	Frontier CASA, APD, Sheriff's Office, SPED Director, Tri-County Juvenile Probation email with PPT
18-Jun-21	Draft of Safe Return Plan posted to AISD website for public comment
30-Jun-21	ESSER III NOGA Awarded
30-Jun-21	Safe Return Plan posted on AISD website
	Documentation of above items https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15P_HiA4hQEOpPIuj073zAIf6AztwYKqk?usp=sharing
6-Dec-21	Stakeholder Meeting for ESSER III new entitlement amount use of funds and Safe-Return Plan revision
7-Dec-21	Revised Safe-Return Plan on AISD website for public comment

Section 6 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Use of Funds

Activities to address the unique needs of low-income students, students with disabilities (SWD), English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.

Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of the LEA, including buildings operated by the LEA. **$35,000**

Purchasing educational technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students … that aids in regular/substantive educational interaction between students and instructors, including low-income students and SWD, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment. **$262,000**

Providing mental health services and supports, including through implementation of evidence based full-service community schools. **$180,000**

Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning -- providing classroom instruction or online learning during summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, SWD, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, & children in foster care. **$18,000**

Addressing learning loss among LEA students, including low-income students, SWD, English learners, racial & ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, & children in foster care -- Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students. **$557,038**

Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including … mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. **$600,000**

Section 7   Alpine ISD Translation Policy

As part of Title I, Part A Schoolwide Program requirements, Alpine ISD adheres to the following procedures for translation and interpretation services for families of Alpine ISD students.
The Home Language Survey is used by Alpine ISD to identify languages spoken by families within the district. Families of Alpine ISD students speak the following languages according to the original Home Language Surveys collected when a student first enrolls in a Texas public school: English, Spanish, Turkish, Mandarin, and Filipino.

Section 1114 (b)
An eligible school operating a schoolwide program shall develop a campus improvement plan. (4) The information contained in such a plan shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

Section 1112 (e)(4); 1114 (b)(4); 1116 (e)(5); and 1116 (f)
Information regarding student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports, plans, policy, compact, parent meetings, and other required correspondence must be given in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

District Level
• The Alpine ISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy are available in English and Spanish on the district website. Hard copies are available at Alpine ISD Administration Office upon request.
• Alpine ISD district website, https://alpine.esc18.net, can be translated into various languages by selecting the *Select Language* link in the bottom right corner.
Parents and Guardians can change the language on the district Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/AlpineISD by going to your News Feed, click *Translate Facebook* in the left menu. You may need to click *See More* first.
• An Alpine ISD has a person who is available for the district to help translate information for parents/guardians into Spanish.

Campus Level
• All campuses have personnel available who can help translate or interpret as needed for parents/guardians whose first language is Spanish.

• Translation and interpretations in Spanish will be made available at any meeting, parent conferences, Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) Meetings, Assessment, Review, Dismissal (ARD) Meetings, 504 Meetings and parent/guardian school events as needed.

• Documents and information are sent home in English and Spanish and other languages upon request.