



**PRIORITY CHARTERS
SCHOOLS'
Safe Return to School
Plan**

2022 - 2023

www.prioritycharterschools.org/safe-return-to-school-plan

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The U.S. Department of Education has provided an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation awarded \$11.2 billion to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), to be dispersed among public and open enrollment charter schools. These are federal funds provided to the state to cover the costs associated with learning loss due to COVID-19. These funds will support the improvement of facilities, technology, cleaning, and overall student achievement as it relates to the impact of COVID-19 had on elementary and secondary schools. The following Safe Return to School plan meets the requirements for school districts to receive the ESSER III grant.

Timeline of the Safe Return to Schools Plan

May 19, 2021

- Stakeholder survey was sent to all current staff of Priority Charter Schools (PCS).

May 20, 2021

- Stakeholder surveys were to all current students and guardians of PCS.
- Survey was opened to community stakeholders on PCS district website.

June 24, 2021

- Special Board Meeting was called to allow for Public Comment on PCS 2021-20221 Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (EESER) Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan.
- Priority Charter School's Board of Trustees voted to accept the ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan.

June 26, 2021

- ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan was posted on PCS district website for public comment.
- Stakeholder survey is open on PCS website for continuous gathering of data.

November 11, 2021

- Priority Charter School's Board of Trustees reviewed the ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan and adopted needed changes. Public Comment was heard during the meeting concerning both the ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan. Surveys were sent out prior to the meeting to staff and parents. The stakeholder survey is continuously open to gather community input.

March 10, 2022

- Priority Charter School's Board of Trustees reviewed the ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan and adopted needed changes. Public Comment was heard during the meeting concerning both the ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan. Surveys were sent out prior to the meeting to staff and parents. The stakeholder survey is continuously open to gather community input.

September 1, 2022

- Stakeholders survey was sent to all current staff, students, and guardians of Priority Charter Schools.

September 8, 2022

- Priority Charter School's Board of Trustees reviewed the ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan and adopted needed changes. Public Comment was heard during the meeting concerning both the ESSER Budget Plan and the Safe Return to School Plan. Surveys were sent out prior to the

meeting to staff and parents. The stakeholder survey is continuously open to gather community input.

Safe Return Goals 2021 – 2022

The purpose of this plan is to aid in the safe return to in-person instruction that will allow for the assessment of academic gaps and provide accelerated opportunities for loss of learning due to the pandemic by establishing new learning initiatives for the students. Additionally, in-person instruction will support the evaluation of social and emotional needs. Through the safe practices of this plan, PCS will remain open to in-person instruction for the duration of the school year.

This plan extends to all Priority Charter Schools (PCS) campuses and facilities where employees, students, and families feel safe and reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to in-person instruction. The guidelines referenced in this plan take into consideration guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local and state officials, input from parent surveys, staff surveys, student surveys, Priority Charter Schools campuses, district administration, and Board of Directors. Due to the evolving nature of the pandemic, this plan is subject to change based on regulations by the Office of the Governor of Texas and TEA. Parents, staff, and students will be notified if changes are made to this plan.

Priority Charter Schools Board of Directors

Norman Mitchell – Board President

David Barnes – Board Vice-President

Dr. Teresa Beamon – Board Secretary

Darrell Haden – Board Member

Donna Haden – Board Member

Priority Charter Schools Administration Executive Cabinet

Dr. Scott Moger – Superintendent

Dr. Christie Bledsoe - Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Robin Osburn – Executive Director of Finance

Karen Sykes – Executive Director of Special Programs

Jason Osburn – Executive Director of Operations & Safety

INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

After careful review of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, to include the distribution of vaccinations, PCS has decided to provide face to face, in-person instruction for the duration of the 2022-2023 school year. These services will expand to all activities and extracurricular programs. Alternative instruction for students with physician's verification documenting specific medical needs may qualify for remote instruction based on future guidance by TEA. Additionally, local community transmission and situational changes may justify asynchronous instruction at various times during the school year.

Due to the pandemic's impact on loss of learning, students will receive assessments to identify learning gaps and receive learning interventions that incorporate differentiated, continually-adapting learning platforms in support of student growth. Additionally, students will receive more instructional time through school-day tutorials, afterschool tutoring, Saturday school, summer school, partnerships, and credit recovery programs.

Rigorous instruction materials and teacher support systems will provide:

- Career and technology courses for the secondary level
- Renaissance learning
- ST Math and Zearn
- BookNook for reading
- Texas Resource System's researched based curriculum
- Teaching Strategies curriculum for prekindergarten
- Extracurricular Programs

Mental, physical, and behavioral support will be provided through:

- Partnerships with social workers, counselors, and healthcare professionals
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Free Breakfast and free lunch for all students
- Continued development of specialized instructional and recreational spaces
- Behavior regulation is supported through PAX training

COVID-19 COMMUNICATION

All employees shall understand safety requirements, protocols, and expectations that have been implemented to ensure students and staff safety while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Updates pertinent to the evolving pandemic will be provided throughout the year via district and campus level email, School Messenger, and the PCS website.

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

Priority Charter School campuses reopened to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Campuses will remain open for the 2022-2023 school year. Prior visitor

restrictions were lifted on July 1, 2021, allowing normal visitation to the PCS campuses. Visitor tracking to include visitor's name, location on campus, and time and date will be recorded through the Raptor Visitor Management System. Face covering will be allowed once checked in. All visitors will be required to provide full, facial visibility for identity recognition when checking in and picking up students.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

All travel restrictions were lifted on July 1, 2021.

SCREENING – STUDENTS, STAFF MEMBERS, AND VISITORS

Campuses will return to normal non-screening operations on July 1, 2021. Unless local community transmissions change, campuses will not require screening of students and staff members prior to entry. Self-screening is strongly encouraged. Visitor screening requirements will be determined at the campus level, but will not be required by the district.

STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER DISPLAYS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

If a staff member or student is on campus and develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or has a temperature **equal to or higher than 100.4 degrees**, the following will occur:

- The individual will be escorted or report to the front office or designated isolation area and will be monitored until parent/guardian or emergency contact arrives.
- Employees displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home. The Human Resources reporting requirements, which exist at the time of the event, will be followed.
- Staff and students will only be allowed to return to Priority Charter School campuses or facilities after the requirements detailed in the Return to Work/Campus have been satisfied.

RETURN TO WORK / CAMPUS

Priority Charter Schools intends to comply with and implement the current guidance as provided by the Bell County Health District, Williamson County Health District, Coryell County Health District, Texas Education Agency, Texas Health and Human Services, and the Center for Disease Control. In the event, a conflict develops between this plan and current guidance provided by the organizations above, the Superintendent and Executive Director of Operations and Safety will consult with these sources and make the final determination.

Employees will refer to the PCS Human Resources Department for current return to work requirements. Student status will be reported to the student's campus office for guidance on returning to a campus.

Prior to returning to a PCS campus, a test-confirmed positive student or employee for COVID-19 must meet the following criteria:

- For children with symptoms, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.

Close-contact students and staff members will no longer be required to quarantine. However, all close-contact cases should be reported to the campus office.

COVID-19 SELF-SCREEN SYMPTOMS LIST

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees
- 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

ISOLATION ON CAMPUS

Those who are observed or report to have possible COVID-19 symptoms will be directed to the front office or designated isolation area. The campus principal will further assess the individual and determine if the symptoms warrant removal from the campus. If the campus principal determines the symptoms warrant removal, the principal will follow the "Student or Staff Member Displays Symptoms of Covid-19" guidelines.

GENERAL PREVENTION ADVICE FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Follow with hand hygiene.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. If you do, wash your hands afterward.
- Wash hands with soap and water (20 seconds) FREQUENTLY.
- If you do not have soap, use hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol-based).
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe daily.
- Promote non-contact methods of greetings.
- Practice self-screening.

FACE COVERINGS (MASKS AND FACE SHEILDS)

Masks and/or face shields will no longer be required by students, staff members, or visitors. Conversely, there are no restrictions on the proper wearing of these items.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Priority Charter Schools will continue the regular cleaning schedule for all workspaces to include frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces. Disinfectant products will be available to staff members.

TRANSPORTATION

Students and staff will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon boarding and exiting the bus. When possible, the windows should be open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

CAFETERIA

Priority Charter Schools cafeteria staff and food handlers shall follow all established protocols related to food safety. This includes, but not limited to: wearing gloves, hairnets, and regularly cleaning of food preparation surfaces. Common areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Non-disposable food service items will be washed with soap and hot water after every use. Meals will be served with disposable trays and utensils.

PLAYGROUND AND RECESS

Playgrounds will be open and accessible to students during play times.

ATHLETICS, STUDENT ACTIVITIES, AND FIELD TRIPS

All athletics, student activities, and field trips resumed normal scheduling during the 2021-2022 school year. This will remain in effect for the 2022-2023 school year.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

When possible, students will be encouraged to practice safe distancing. Distancing will be based on location size, number of students, and activity in practice.

COVID IMMUNIZATIONS

Neither students nor staff members will be required to participate in or show proof of the COVID vaccinations.

DISINFECTION PROTOCOL

Disinfection of a contaminated area is triggered when an active employee or student is identified through a positive test for COVID-19. This is a separate and localized treatment with particular protocols and measures and does not impact the general cleaning process.

COVID-19 CASE REPORTS

All positive cases involving students or staff members of PCS will be reported to both the local health department and the Texas Department of Health Services. Students and staff members are required to notify their school office if they have tested positive for COVID. The school office will notify the Director of Operations and Safety for state and local reporting.

EXTENDED DISTRICT OR CAMPUS CLOSURES

In the event Priority Charter Schools is ordered to close during the 2022-2023 school year, the district will publish, through its communication channels, more information regarding specific updates pertinent to the closure period.

APPENDICES

Document Sources:

Aiken County Public Schools: <https://www.acpsd.net/>

Center for Disease control - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Killeen ISD: https://www.killeenisd.org/WebData/DocumentViewer/KISD_PHG.pdf

Region 12: <https://www.esc12.net/>

TEA: [22-23 Public Health Guidance \(texas.gov\)](#)