

USD 388 Proposed Return to School Information:

USD 388 is excited and gearing up for our return to school. A few days ago, you should have received an email informing you that our first day of school will be Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Teachers and staff are working hard to develop safe guidelines and plans for getting students back to school and learning. We have missed them and hope they look forward to being back with their teachers and friends. Please take a few minutes to read this USD 388 Proposed Return to School Information as it relates to our upcoming school year. These are uncertain times, but we hope this basic information can help you as you make your personal decisions on what is best for your kids. Please be patient with us through this process as this is a very fluid situation that is constantly changing.

Tomorrow I will be sending out a short survey, via email and other social media platforms, asking parents to indicate how each of their children plans to start the school year. You will learn more about these options in the information below. We need this information ASAP, as we make plans to deliver our kids the best education possible through these changing times. Please take a few minutes and complete this survey. If you have any questions, please email me at cburton@usd388.com.

Again, thanks for your help and understanding.

Corey Burton

USD 388 – Superintendent of Schools

What will school look like for the 2020-21 school year?

As long as we are allowed by the Ellis County Health Department and/or state, we will provide on-site learning. Throughout the year, there could be three different learning environments based on the current phase the county and/or state is in, or the local needs of our buildings and district. The district or building's learning environment status will be determined by USD 388 Board of Education, administration, and/or local health officials. Below are the three different learning environments.

Learning Environment #1 - On-site Learning Environment: students and teachers will be in school with various safety measures put into place.

1. Students are on-site and in attendance at their school.
2. All students, faculty, staff, vendors and other visitors will wear face coverings due to potential social distancing limitations ([E.O. 20-59](#)).
3. Additional daily cleaning routines will be in place.
4. Classroom layouts have been shifted and rearranged to allow for as much social distancing as possible.
5. Students and staff will go through daily health checks (temperature checks).
6. When possible, students will be maintained in their same cohort group through the day.
7. Social distancing will be implemented during our lunch periods.

Learning Environment #2 - Hybrid Learning Environment (If needed due to increased Covid numbers): students would be spending part of their time in the classroom and part of their time learning remotely from home.

1. Students will attend school either two or three days a week.
2. Students will engage in synchronous and asynchronous learning every day when off site.
3. Social distancing measures can be maintained according to current guidelines.
4. Class sizes will be reduced by creating cohorts based on alphabet with the exception of families with different last names staying together.
5. On-site priority will be provided, depending on staffing, for:
 - a. Students with Low Incidence Disabilities
 - b. English language learners
 - c. Students that are homeless
 - d. Students in foster care
 - e. Students with written plans created through collaborative teams

Learning Environment #3 – Remote (Online) Learning Environment: students would be doing all of their learning from home and not entering the school building at all. Remote (Online) Learning is an individual family/student option that you can choose. **Remote (Online) Learning may also become mandatory at some point in time if the school buildings are closed due to an outbreak of COVID cases.** The district and/or building will determine the learning environment status (on-site, hybrid, remote) based on state orders, county health orders and/or local needs of the building/district. We will constantly monitor the COVID threat in the community and move between our different learning environments as needed.

Here are 11 essential things to know about remote learning:

1. Students maintain enrollment status at their brick and mortar school (USD 388). This is not an alternate online school.
2. For many classes, students will engage in school online during regular school hours and follow a standard school schedule (8:00 am-3:24 pm).
3. Learning will occur asynchronously (on your own) with daily synchronous (scheduled) contact.
4. Teachers will meet with students daily utilizing technology.
5. Individual services may occur on campus or remotely as appropriate and as allowable.
6. Families will complete a contract that demonstrates their commitment to learning remotely and will abide by established protocols. (i.e. daily logs of time spent in instructional activities, etc.)
7. Independent remote learning commitments will occur for at least a semester. Exceptions could be allowed based on individual circumstances.
8. Students who choose remote online learning will not participate in any in-person extracurricular or additional classroom activities. This includes all sports and other extracurricular activities.
9. Online learning will NOT look the same as our Continuous Learning Plan that we ended last school year. That remote learning was a temporary measure. Students/parents will need to spend significantly more time this year in the daily learning process. It is very important that our students continue to learn and grow each day within their given curriculums/courses.
10. If because of COVID cases USD 388 moves to Remote (Online) Learning, ALL school activities will be canceled during this time. This includes all sports and other extracurricular activities.
11. We are working on a plan for school lunches if schools need to move to online learning or if you choose to do online learning. We are waiting on state/federal guidance on this. Most likely, students would need to pick up their meal curbside at the designated school building and would be charged their normal lunch rate.

Can parents choose between on-site, hybrid, and remote learning for their kids?

As we start our school year, students may choose between On-site Learning and Remote (Online) Learning. If we see an increase in Covid numbers, the district and/or building will determine the learning environment status (on-site, hybrid, remote) based on current state orders, county health orders and/or local needs. Basically, parents will have two options: 1.) send kids to school according to the learning environment determined by the district and/or health officials; 2.) register for Remote (Online) Learning.

What are my options if I do not want to physically send my child to school?

You can register your student for USD 388's Remote (Online) Learning Environment.

How will on-site learning look compared to previous years?

On-site learning will look and feel the same as previous years when it comes to teaching and learning. There will be some modifications to schedules and other items to reduce the spread of COVID. Some of these items include:

- No morning assemblies for elementary students. Instead of congregating in the same space, students will go directly to classrooms upon arrival. Parents will need to drop students off in the circle drive, please do NOT accompany your student into the building.
- Junior High students need to use the JH door to enter the building and go to lockers/classroom following temperature checks. High School students need to use the north (library) door or the front doors to enter the building and go to their lockers/classroom where temperatures will be checked.
- Our school buildings will open their doors at 7:40 am each day. Students will NOT be allowed in the buildings prior to that time.
- Water fountains will be closed. Water bottle fillers will still remain in use so students will need to bring a personal water bottle for daily use.
- Lunch times will be extended to accommodate smaller groups of kids eating together, or spacing, and time for additional cleaning between groups.
- Staff and students will be required to sanitize their hands on an hourly basis.
- Classrooms will limit the sharing of materials and school supplies. Each student will need to have his/her own supplies to work with.
- Washington Grade School students will remain in their own classroom except for specials, lunch, and recess.
- Desk at Ellis Jr./Sr. high school will be sanitized between each hour of the day.
- Classrooms are being organized to allow for as much social distancing as possible.
- Individual care rooms have been assigned to separate from the nurse's office where students or employees who may have COVID-19 or another communicable disease will wait to be evaluated or to be picked-up.

How is the district keeping students and staff safe?

Cleaning and sanitation are critical to a healthy and safe learning environment for our students and staff. Some of these additional safety items include:

- Staff will be expected to self-assess their health before every school day using the KDHE provided COVID health assessment checklist.
- Parents will be expected to keep your student home if they are ill. Do NOT send your student to school if they show any signs of illness.
- Students and staff will go through daily health checks including temperature check.
- Each student will need to bring an appropriate clean face covering to school each day.
- Ongoing cleaning and sanitation will occur during school day with an emphasis on high traffic and high touch zones; deep cleaning/disinfecting will occur outside school hours.
- EPA hospital grade disinfectant is used by the district.
- Building use by outside groups after school hours will be temporarily suspended to minimize additional traffic and footprint in areas used for school.
- Buses will be thoroughly disinfected in between each route.
- While on the bus, students will be required to wear face coverings and will be allowed one per seat, unless residing in the same household.

How will I know if the district activates the hybrid or remote learning environment?

The district will inform parents/guardians as soon as possible when the decision has been made to move from the on-site learning environment to either hybrid or remote learning through the regular emergency notification process. Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date at enrollment.

Exclusion from School

Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately. School districts should be familiar with the symptoms of COVID-19 based on KDHE guidance.

The current known symptoms are:

- Fever (100.4 or higher).
- Chills.
- Rigors.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Fatigue.
- Headache.
- Sore throat.
- Lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing).
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Diarrhea.

Students and staff will be screened daily. Parents need to keep students home if they have any of these symptoms.

When will I be notified of COVID-19 contact in school?

[Click here to view the district's COVID-19 exposure guidelines.](#) The district will work with Ellis County Health to notify close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 patients.

