



# Parent Frequently Asked Questions

## WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Academic Instruction - FAQs

WISD will continue to update this page on a regular basis.

<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will WISD provide instruction at the beginning of the year?</b>
<b>A.</b>	All students will start school with remote learning beginning August 31 through September 25, 2020. After the first four weeks of school, Weslaco ISD will begin to allow students back on campus using a phased in approach as directed by the Texas Education Agency. The phased in approach allows for a small group of students to gradually (week by week) return to campus over the course of four weeks (September 28, 2020 – October 23, 2020). The student phase in groups will be determined by the district and on the ninth week of school beginning October 26, 2020 any parent who selects on campus learning will be able to send their child to school. Please note at home / remote learning is still an option for parents.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Synchronous (live virtual learning) V. Asynchronous (self-paced virtual learning)</b>
<b>A.</b>	<p>TEA defines <b>synchronous</b> instruction as a two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. In this method the students are required to meet the specified minutes virtually. The students must be “present” virtually utilizing a computer or other electronic device. Students will be marked as present-synchronous.</p> <p>TEA defines <b>asynchronous</b> instruction as instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. Through this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in person or in real time. This type of instruction may include various forms of virtual learning such as pre-recorded lessons and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. TEA allows asynchronous learning for PK-12. Students will be marked remote-present-asynchronous.</p>
<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will children with special needs work remotely?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Students in special education programs will work with their ARD committee to determine what accommodations will be implemented to address their individual needs during remote learning. Parents who have additional questions may call their child’s campus principal for more information.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will WISD record my child’s attendance?</b>



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<b>A.</b>	Teachers will post attendance as if the students were physically present in the classroom. Students who participate virtually (synchronous or asynchronous) through any of the district platforms available and submit required assignments are considered “present” and will not be marked absent. Per Texas Education Code (TEC 25.092), students must attend 90% of the day a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade level.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will my child be graded for his work?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Teachers will record grades in accordance with the district grading policy, and grades will be available for students and parents to view through the district’s student and parent portals. Teachers will be provided training and guidance on the recording of virtual learning grades and the grading policy for 2020-2021. Teachers must ensure they follow the 2020-2021 Weslaco ISD Grading Guidelines for both face-to-face and remote learning students in order to ensure consistency.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will GPA, Class Rank, and grading be determined if working remotely?</b>
<b>A.</b>	The EIC (LOCAL) policy for academic achievement and class ranking will continue to be implemented and will not change for remote instruction. The Weslaco ISD Grading Guidelines are published in the student handbook, which is posted on the Weslaco ISD website. For more information please refer to the 2020-2021 Student Handbook: <a href="#">Student Handbook 2020-2021</a>
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will dual enrollment classes be impacted?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Dual enrollment classes will begin August 24, 2020. STC is providing virtual instruction for most dual enrollment classes for the Fall 2020 semester.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>If I choose the face-to-face instruction and my child gets sick in the first 6 weeks of school, can they switch to remote learning?</b>
<b>A.</b>	For the period of time that they are home ill, virtual learning will be available, or students may make up work upon their return.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will UIL activities be available to students learning remotely?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Recent guidance provided by UIL will allow students who are enrolled in synchronous or asynchronous learning to participate in extracurricular activities. The student must meet all other UIL eligibility requirements.



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<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will technology be provided to students while on remote instruction?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, technology will be made available to all students who need this support for use at home. If your child has not received the devices (chromebook & hot spot), please call the campus where your child attends.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will 11th and 12th grade have a 100% remote learning option?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, 100% remote learning is an option.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will remote learning be different from last Spring?</b>
<b>A.</b>	<p>The redesigned remote instruction and face-to-face curriculum incorporates opportunities for technology integration, communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking into all student learning. Students are required to attend each class on a daily basis either synchronously or asynchronously. Synchronous is remote learning in real-time with a teacher present. Asynchronous is done independently with teacher support.</p> <p>Last spring, the TEA commissioner waived the 90% rule for student attendance. This rule will NOT be waived for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are required to attend 90% of the time each course is offered to receive credit and to be promoted to the next grade level.</p>
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What do I do if my student is experiencing technical difficulties with their district-issued device or internet hotspot?</b>
<b>A.</b>	<p>Remote Learning Technology Help is available per campus with two options for you to seek help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The phone line is available from 8AM to 5PM. After 5PM, the caller will be asked to leave a voicemail.</li><li>• The Help Form is available all the time in English &amp; Spanish, and will allow you to upload an image of the technical issue. Please fill out request at the Help Desk Form: <a href="#">Help Desk Form</a></li></ul>
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What platforms will be used for online learning?</b>



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<b>A.</b>	<p><u>Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten-SeeSaw</u></p> <p><u>Grades 1st - 5th</u> - Google Classroom will be used for online learning; all other district online resources can be found in the Clever Portal.</p> <p><u>Grades 6th - 8th</u> - Google Classroom will be used for online learning; all other district online resources can be found in the Clever Portal.</p> <p><u>Grades 9th - 12th</u> - Google Classroom will be used for online learning; all other district online resources can be found in the Clever Portal.</p>
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will online classes be self-paced?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Classes will be synchronous and asynchronous. Synchronous is remote learning in real-time with a teacher present. Asynchronous is classwork done online independently with teacher support. Students will be given a daily schedule of when they will meet with the teacher virtually and when they need to work on the computer on their own.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will the attendance policy change for the 2020-2021 school year?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Compulsory attendance laws will still apply. Students are required to attend 90% of the time to receive credit for each course and to be promoted to the next grade level.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will the STAAR test be given this year?</b>
<b>A.</b>	The Texas Education Agency has indicated all testing will resume for the 2020-2021 school year. You and your children will receive more information on testing in the near future.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will practicum opportunities be available to students in CTE courses?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, WISD continues to work with our community partners to provide hands-on experiences for our students; however, opportunities may be limited due to COVID19.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will there be athletics and competitive sports in WISD?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes. We will follow UIL guidelines on this topic.



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<b>Q.</b>	<b>If we have selected the remote or hybrid pathway, will my child be allowed to participate in sports?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Students participating in remote learning offered by their school district, whether synchronous or asynchronous (as defined by TEA), may participate in UIL activities if they meet all other UIL eligibility requirements. Students must be enrolled in remote learning options at the school the student will represent. Hybrid is considered a remote option that allows your child eligible to participate.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will there be a school supply list provided to parents?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, the staff is working on a modified school supply list for the 20-21 school year. In an effort to provide our Weslaco ISD families with relief from the expense of school supplies, Weslaco ISD administration will provide basic materials for all elementary students. Middle and high school students will be provided with basic school supplies upon request. Each WISD student will receive a chromebook, headset and mouse.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Is WISD considering a plan for the transition of students &amp; staff for the reopening of schools?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, WISD has a transition plan in place that was developed with guidance from TEA.. The focus at this time is a strong start to our remote learning environment for the first four weeks of the school year. Weslaco ISD will begin to allow students back on campus using a phased in approach as directed by the Texas Education Agency. The phased in approach allows for a small group of students to gradually (week by week) return to campus over the course of four weeks (September 28, 2020 – October 23, 2020). The student phase in groups will be determined by the district and on the ninth week of school beginning October 26, 2020 any parent who selects on campus learning will be able to send their child to school. Please note at home / remote learning is still an option for parents.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What will remote learning look like?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Students who participate in remote learning will engage in curriculum Monday through Friday and will experience the same curriculum facilitated by a certified Weslaco ISD teacher. Each day, students will have periods of daily, live instruction with certified teachers, as well as periods of self-paced, independent learning.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What will grades be based on?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Students will be assessed on their mastery of the TEKS standards. Both formative and



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	summative assessments will be utilized to track student mastery.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What is the attendance requirement for remote learning?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Students are required to attend at least 90 percent of the time for all their classes to receive credit and be promoted to the next grade level. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will Physical Education (PE) be offered to remote learning students?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, lessons are being designed to meet the needs of students learning remotely.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will fine arts be offered to students who are on remote learning?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, fine arts will be offered to students who are learning remotely.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will bilingual students continue to receive bilingual support?</b>
<b>A.</b>	The English learner will continue to receive language, instructional, accommodations, and technology support. They will continue to receive support through multiple platforms. The Bilingual/ESL department will host virtual parent informational meetings and events to provide additional support..

## Health and Safety- FAQs

<b>Q.</b>	<b>What are the sanitation protocols for campuses and facilities?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Campuses will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the instructional day. Classrooms will be equipped for cleaning between transitions of students. Age appropriate signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings. Hand sanitizing and/or hand washing stations will be available at every entrance, hallways and in all classrooms.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will daily health screenings for staff and students be required when they return to campus?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day. Parents should screen their child each morning for signs and symptoms of illness. <b>DO NOT</b> send your child to school if they have: a fever of 100 degrees or greater, chills, a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, muscle fatigue, body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are suspected to be present.



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### Extracurricular - FAQs

<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will extracurricular activities begin in the Fall?</b>
<b>A.</b>	No extracurricular sports or activities are allowed until school systems reopen for on-campus instruction. As circumstances regarding COVID-19 continue to evolve, Weslaco ISD will continue to follow guidance from state and local health authorities, the Texas Education Agency, and the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to determine the best course of action to ensure the safety of students and staff. Currently the 32-5A, 16-5A, and 32-6A UIL plans are under review by the DEC and Superintendents. Information will be disseminated to all once plans are finalized.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will high school students compete in University Interscholastic League (UIL) Marching Band competitions this school year?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Weslaco ISD's two comprehensive high schools will <b>not</b> be competing in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Marching Band competitions this school year. This decision is based on current information and is subject to change.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will students who participate in remote learning be able to participate in UIL extracurricular activities?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, remote learning students will be able to participate in UIL activities, which includes athletics and the performing arts.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will remote learning students attend practice on campus for athletics?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Attendance at on-campus practices will be required for athletics pending final approval of UIL activities. Please contact your coach or campus athletic coordinator for more information.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will remote learning students attend practice on campus for the performing arts?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Once on-campus activities resume, attendance at on-campus rehearsals for the performing arts groups will be required for students to participate in their respective art discipline . Please contact the band director or teacher for more information.



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### Food & Nutrition Services- FAQs

<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will meal service be available during the first four weeks of school?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, beginning on August 31 curbside meals will be provided. During meal distribution, lunch and breakfast for the following day will be provided. This meal service will only be available to enrolled Weslaco ISD students.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>If my child is a middle or high school student, where can they pick up their meals?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Weslaco High School, Weslaco East High School and Beatriz G. Garza Middle School are providing meals, Monday thru Friday, 10:30am-1:00pm.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What time will meals be served?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Availability of meals are between the hours of 10:30am-1:00pm, Monday through Friday during school days only.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>When on-campus face-to-face learning resumes, what will meal service look like?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Breakfast - Breakfast will be served and consumed in the classroom. Lunch - Students will pick up a packaged lunch in the cafeteria and eat in their classrooms OR students will pick up a lunch tray and eat in the cafeteria following social distancing protocols. Safety and health precautions will be in place to maintain social distancing and reduce health risks. Floor decals will be placed to indicate where students will stand while picking up their lunch.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>When on-campus learning resumes, will remote learning students be offered meal service?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, students who will participate in remote learning will have access to meal service.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will Food Services staff be checked for symptoms every day?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Food service staff will have their temperature verified and be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What additional safety measures will be taken?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Staff will wear face coverings and gloves during food preparation and service and protective shields will be installed at the serving counters and each cashier station. Kitchen clerks will use a touchless transaction method to count meals.





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### Transportation -FAQs

<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will buses be sanitized?</b>
<b>A.</b>	All buses have been sanitized with a cordless handheld Electrostatic sprayer. This provides immediate infection control in case an outbreak should occur. It delivers results up to three times greater than the traditional disinfecting and sanitizing equipment. Bus drivers will also sanitize the bus after each route. Please see video: <a href="#">Transportation Presentation</a>
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What if a student has tested positive for Coronavirus that was on the bus?</b>
<b>A.</b>	The bus will be sanitized thoroughly with MDF-500 in case of a positive infection. This cleaner is known to kill all infections such as the bird flu, Influenza A & B, Hepatitis C & B, and Human and Canine Coronavirus.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What other precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of students?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Each bus has an automatic sanitizer dispenser and students will be asked to wear a mask. The transportation department will follow all of the TEA and CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of our WISD students.

### Counseling and Behavioral Services- FAQs

<b>Q.</b>	<b>How can students and parents communicate with counselors?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Counselors are available to answer phone calls or emails. Students are encouraged to email their counselor if they have questions or concerns about schedules, classes, or other academic concerns. If a parent is interested in scheduling a phone call, they can email their child’s counselor to set up a time. Additional information is available on each campus website. If a student is experiencing a crisis and is in immediate danger, please call 9-1-1. If the student is not in immediate danger, parents should contact their school counselor for resources and additional support.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will remote learning students be able to access counseling resources?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes, students will be able to work with school counselors via remote learning. Each counselor will have a Google Classroom, where they will provide guidance lessons and connect with students.



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<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will remote learning students be able to participate in mental and behavioral health services?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Mental and behavioral health support will be available remotely. For students needing extra support, the school counselor can refer any student for services provided by the district or outside agencies.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What other resources can students and parents access?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Additional help can be found in the district’s website that includes a list of behavioral health and mental health resources.

### **Registration-FAQs**

<b>Q.</b>	<b>How can I enroll my child in WISD?</b>
<b>A.</b>	New and returning students must enroll online. Please click on the link to enroll: <a href="#">Enroll Now</a>
<b>Q.</b>	<b>How do I enroll my child if we are new to this district?</b>
<b>A.</b>	If your child is new to the district, please contact the Intake Center at (956) 969-6670. An appointment is needed to register.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>If my child is returning to WISD where would I enroll?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Returning students may register at their home campus. Parents can also reach out directly to the requested school of enrollment for further assistance.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>If my child is not zoned to WISD where would I enroll?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Parents who reside outside of WISD boundaries and wish to attend a WISD school may fill out an Inter-District application. For more information or to request assistance you may contact the Intake Center at (956)969-6670.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>What campus is my child zoned to?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Please log on <a href="http://www.wisd.us">www.wisd.us</a> and click on the registration tab. Click on “Find out what school you are zoned to.”



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### Advanced Academics- FAQs

<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will Advanced Placement (AP) courses be offered?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be offered as in previous years. Students will have access to the online AP classroom for both in-person and virtual learning.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will dual credit courses be offered?</b>
<b>A.</b>	South Texas College (STC) dual credit courses will be offered as in other years, but instruction will be remote for the fall 2020 semester. It is anticipated they will be in asynchronous format, but professors are being asked to record synchronous sessions to allow on-demand viewing as needed.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will OnRamps dual enrollment courses be offered?</b>
<b>A.</b>	UT OnRamps courses will continue to be offered. Due to their nature, these courses can easily transition from live to remote and be taught in both spaces at the same time.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will college readiness assessments be administered this year?</b>
<b>A.</b>	WISD plans to administer college entrance exams. We are waiting for guidance from TEA, CDC, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for final decisions.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Do students need to take college readiness assessments with colleges and universities moving to test-optional?</b>
<b>A.</b>	While some institutions of higher education have been considering or implementing test-optional practices for some time, many of those that made the change this year have indicated that it is only for the class of 202, and they will return to prior practices when the exceptions are no longer warranted by the circumstances. College readiness scores continue to be used in determining scholarships (including National Merit), admissions to specific programs (including Honors), and other opportunities.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will Gifted and Talented students still be pulled out in grade K-8?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Beginning in 2020-2021, gifted services will move to a campus-based, centrally-administered model with tiers of service matched to students' individual instructional needs. Students will receive services in their content area courses this year. Teachers will be using differentiation strategies with class assignments and projects. They will be responsible for maintaining records of student differentiations for the 2020 - 2021. The Advanced Academics department will also be organizing enrichment classes and after school activities that parents can sign their G/T students up for.



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<b>Q.</b>	<b>Are the core content teachers providing services qualified?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes. The Advanced Academics Department requires all teachers with G/T students to have 30 hours of GT Certification and an annual 6-hour update. This applies to grades 1st through 12th grade.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>Will we still have gifted services?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Yes. Weslaco ISD supports GT and advanced learners. We are committed to expanding and enhancing our service model in ways to best meet the needs of our learners.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>When will the referral window be for Gifted and Talented Identification?</b>
<b>A.</b>	The referral window will be the last two weeks of September. Please contact campus administration for more information.
<b>Q.</b>	<b>How will Gifted and Talented Identification testing be conducted this year?</b>
<b>A.</b>	Students will be taking online tests.