

Karnack Independent School District



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan 2021-2023

(RIPICS)

"Please contact Nicole Turner (nturner@karnackisd.org or 903-679-3117) if you need this plan in an alternate format."

The goal of this plan is to provide a continuum of learning through TEKS-based instruction while maintaining instructional delivery that furthers student academic success. Karnack ISD will provide access, resources, and academic learning opportunities for all students returning to in-person instruction for the 2023-2024 school year. Covid-19 has been challenging, but KISD continues to move forward, with our focus on keeping our students, faculty, and staff safe while addressing the academic learning loss of our students.

This plan will be reviewed every six months with input gathered from all stakeholders. Stakeholders include, but not limited to, staff, students, parents, community members, and board members. Stakeholders' input includes, but not limited to, information and ideas addressing concerns of our special populations, mental health services, lost instructional time, improving air quality, purchasing educational technology, and repairing/improving school facilities to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards. Stakeholder input has been gathered by stakeholder surveys posted on www.karnackisd.org and stakeholder meetings (school board meetings, focus group meetings, district SBDM).

Karnack ISD has and will continue to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds to be utilized for safely opening and operating for in-person learning according to CDC guidance. The funds will address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning and tutoring outside of the normal school day. Karnack ISD ensures that the interventions to be implemented will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

Academic Plan

Karnack ISD plans to only offer on-campus, traditional instruction throughout the 23-24 school year. Therefore, remote instruction will not be an option. Students will receive blended instruction on campus. Blended instruction means that students will receive some direct instruction by the teacher and some online instruction by our electronic learning platforms SeeSaw for Pre-K, Google Classroom for K-8th and Texas Home Learning 3rd-8th. This blended model will be implemented in case there is a break in in-person school, students will already be equipped with the online learning platform, and there will not be a break with their learning regardless of what the year holds.

KISD plans to offer extra-curricular opportunities in the areas of basketball and track for our junior high students. All events will follow the UIL Covid Guidelines.

KISD will ensure that social, emotional, and mental health supports will be made available to students and staff throughout the year, such as a counselor and services through Community Health Core and Genesis PrimeCare.

Emergency Virtual Learning

(Only if schools are closed temporarily)

Online instruction driven by our state TEKS through our electronic learning platforms SeeSaw for Pre-K, Google Classroom for K-8th and Texas Home Learning 3rd-8th will take place daily. Online instruction and support will be provided. Daily attendance and participation required at scheduled times. Students will be provided a learning device (Chromebook) and Internet Hotspots will be provided at the district's discretion. All extra-curricular activities will be canceled. Meals will be made available when possible to students due to an emergency closure.

Transportation

KISD will continue to encourage social distancing when possible. Students and Drivers will have the option to wear face masks/coverings, but it is not required. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer as they enter the bus. The driver may require members of the same household to sit in the same seat or adjacent seats. Bus drivers will sanitize the bus using a Covid-19 approved sanitizing sprayer weekly and as needed.

Screening Protocols

Daily temperature checks for all students, staff, or visitors will NOT be conducted each day. If an individual is symptomatic or simply feeling bad, school nurses will perform normal medical checks, including temperature checks. ***Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.** Individuals with fever should NOT be at school/work until they are fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Staff, students, and visitors are expected to self-screen each day to ensure no one is entering school facilities, buses/vehicles, or school-related events who: 1) have received a lab-confirmed positive Covid-19 test; or 2) have been diagnosed with any other infectious illness by their doctor; or 3) are exhibiting symptoms of illness that are not normal for them, particularly fever. **Parents must ensure a daily screening has taken place for each of their children before they are allowed to attend school, ride school transportation, or attend school-related functions. Students, staff, and visitors should not be at school/work when feverish or exhibiting symptoms of illness that are unusual for them.**

All staff should be diligent and refrain from coming to school/work when sick. If feeling feverish, a thermometer should be used to check for fever. *Teachers and staff must report to their supervisor or school nurse if they themselves have received a lab-confirmed positive test for COVID-19.* Again, staff who have been diagnosed with Covid-19 or with any other infectious virus (such as the flu) should NOT be present on campus, in school vehicles, or at school related events until

they receive a “return to work” date from their doctor and are symptom free at that time.

Quarantine Procedures

These are steps that KISD will take when a student or staff member has been identified as having COVID-19:

1. KISD will notify all individuals in close contact and the Department of State Health Services if a lab confirmed case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on campus activities. (The name of an individual who tests positive cannot and will not be made available to the general public.)
2. KISD will close off areas used by a sick individual (student, teacher, or staff) until they can be disinfected.
3. Plans in place for both routine and "deep" cleaning.
4. Ensure continuity of education for students/staff who are quarantined or isolated.
5. KISD is following TEA’s guidance and is not doing contact tracing, at this time. If TEA’s guidance changes, then KISD will modify its plan.

Re-Entry AFTER a Positive Test or COVID-Like Symptoms

These are the steps that KISD will follow for allowing any student/staff member to come back to campus:

1. At least 5 to 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, based on CDC guidance.
2. At least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication.
3. The individual has improved in symptoms (e.g. Cough, Chills, Headache, etc.)
4. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive one confirmation that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

Health and Safety Protocols

Sanitation

Sanitation stations are available throughout district facilities and on buses. Proper, routine hand washing will be encouraged for all students and staff throughout each day. Schedules (i.e., time between classes, breaks, etc.) will be flexible so that there will be ample opportunity for all students and staff to wash their hands several times during the day. Proper respiratory etiquette, such as covering coughs, will be encouraged. Custodial services will continue to clean/sanitize all areas, especially high-traffic areas/touch-points.

Social Distancing

While it is universally accepted that social distancing is helpful to reduce the spread of infectious disease, it is also understood that social distancing is impractical in a school setting and cannot be guaranteed or expected. Therefore, the KISD staff will not be asked to attempt to enforce social distancing.

Masks/Facial Coverings

Executive Order GA-36 prohibits governmental entities (such as public school districts) from mandating the use of face coverings. While face coverings remain optional, students, staff, and/or visitors will not be required to wear face coverings while on campus, in school vehicles, or while attending KISD events.

Vaccinations

Information regarding vaccines availability and locations will be provided to students, staff, and community members, upon request.

Visitors/Volunteers on Campus

Yes, visitors are allowed. All visitors should check in at the front office of the facility upon arrival. Visitors should ensure they do not come onto campuses or attend school-related functions while they are sick, as mentioned above. All volunteers are subject to a background check per state law.

Questions

If you should have any questions please email nturner@karnackisd.org

This plan was reviewed for the final time with all stakeholders on August 8, 2023.