

# 20-21 School Year Town Hall

Welcome Parents!

July 28, 2020

## Peaster Pride

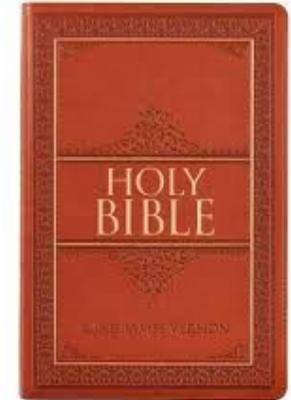


*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*



# Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- School Calendar and Campus Start/End Times
- How to Spot Flu/COVID
- Mission/Vision/Commitments
- Parent Survey Results
- Face-to-face vs. Virtual Learning
- Mitigation Efforts
- Protocols for Reported Illness
- Community Partnership



# Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome
- Thank You Board Members, Administration/Staff, Parents
- Why are we here?
  - To provide information to our parents regarding our plans for the 20-21 school year, so each family can make the decision that is best for them regarding learning opportunities that PISD will offer.

*\* We are not here to debate the return of school, COVID/COVID data, or face coverings. Any questions may be submitted via a 3x5 card at the end.*

PEASTER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020 - 2021

Elem Schedule:  
8:00-3:25

*\*10 additional minutes*

July 2020						
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JH/HS Schedule:  
8:10-3:35

*\*10 additional minutes*

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June 2021						
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# How to spot FLU/COVID

Fill in the blank...

- Person to Person- People with \_\_\_\_\_ can spread it to others up to about 6 feet away. Most experts think that \_\_\_\_\_ spread mainly by droplets made when people with \_\_\_\_\_ cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Symptoms can begin about 2 days (but can range from 1 to 4 days). **That means that you may be able to pass on the \_\_\_\_\_ to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.** Some people can be infected but have no symptoms.

***Flu***

# How to spot FLU/COVID

Fill in the blank...

- The virus that causes \_\_\_\_\_ is thought to spread mainly from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). \_\_\_\_\_ may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

***COVID-19***

# Symptoms to watch for...

## ***FLU***

- fever\* or feeling feverish/chills
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue (tiredness)
- some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

\*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

***\*\*If your child exhibits these symptoms, please take precautions and monitor them closely.***

## ***COVID***

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

# Vision/ Mission

## ***Vision:***

- “Growing a tradition of excellence”

## ***Mission:***

- Peaster ISD prepares students for success in the 21st century by engaging them in rigorous and relevant learning opportunities that promote excellence. Our expectation is all students and staff will achieve their potential, and become independent, lifelong learners.

# Commitments

## ***We are committed to:***

- learning daily, personal responsibility, leadership, growth, and service for all students and staff.
- providing a safe, secure, student-centered environment that upholds tradition, instills respect, and builds character.
- maintaining excellence in a growing community grounded in respect, unity, compassion, faith, and family.

***\*We need our students in school to accomplish these at the highest level possible.***

# How Did We Reach These Decisions?

- *Research/Administration Meetings/Surveys/Observation/Conversations*
- American Academy of Pediatrics:
  - strongly recommend that students be “physically present in school” as much as possible, and emphasize that there are major health, social and educational risks to keeping children at home.
- Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has given the green light for school officials — both public and private — to decide whether, when, and how to open school.
- Texas Education Code 11.151
  - gives the Board of Trustees the exclusive power and duty to govern and oversee the management of the public schools of the District
  - Board approved resolution to start school on time.

# How Did We Reach These Decisions?

- CDC- for children (0-17 years), cumulative COVID-19 hospitalization rates are much lower than cumulative influenza hospitalization rates during recent influenza seasons.
- Children rarely transmit COVID to each other or to adults.
- FAPE
  - Federal law requiring each school to provide a “free and appropriate public education” to all school aged children.

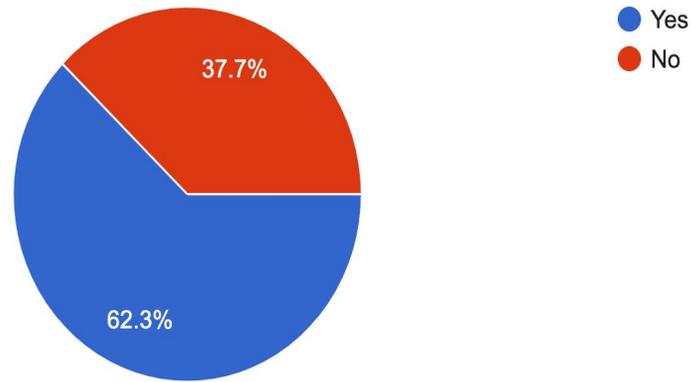
# How Did We Reach These Decisions?

- Parker County- 99.9% of people are not active COVID after 9 months of possible exposure.
- Peaster Texas has seen little impact from COVID
- In 2018, over 11,000 Texans died from the flu, including 16 children. Over 75% were age 65 and older. This is with a vaccine available.
- “The average student could begin the next school year having lost as much as a third of the expected progress from the previous year in reading and half of the expected progress in math”
- *How far behind are we willing to let our students fall?*

# Parent Survey Results

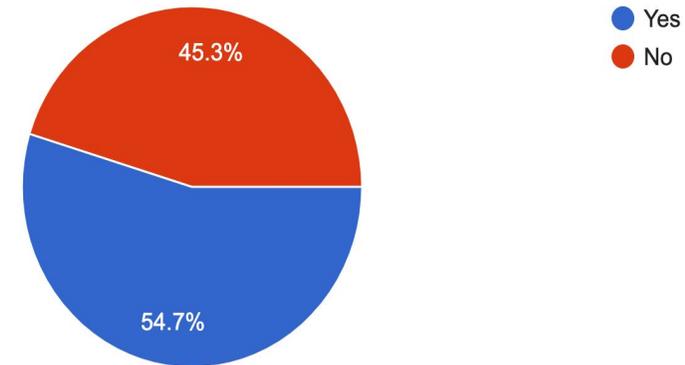
If Peaster ISD were to require all students age 10 and older to wear a face mask over their mouth and nose in order to attend school, will you send your child to school for face-to-face instruction?

970 responses



If Peaster ISD were to require all students in grades Pre-k thru 12th grade to maintain social distancing of 6' at all times while at school, which ...d your child to school for face-to-face instruction?

970 responses

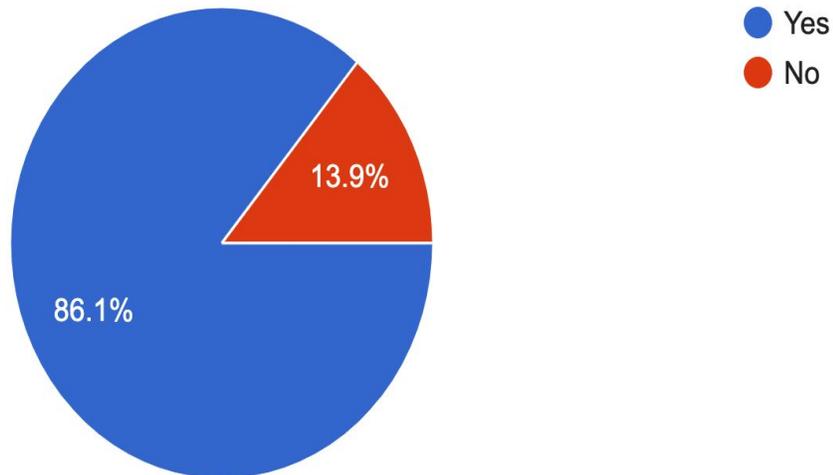


***\*641 Respondents would choose an alternate education method other than PISD face-to-face learning.***

# Parent Survey Results

If Peaster ISD were to operate on a traditional schedule, and offer a face-to-face education experience as close to traditional as possible, including your child to school for face-to-face instruction?

970 responses

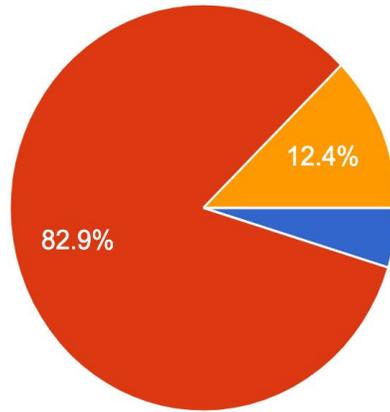


***\*135 Respondents would choose an alternate education method other than PISD face-to-face learning.***

# Hygiene instruction and Parent participation

According to the Texas Education Agency, "On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems must provide instruction to student...ay of school on "appropriate hygiene practices"?"

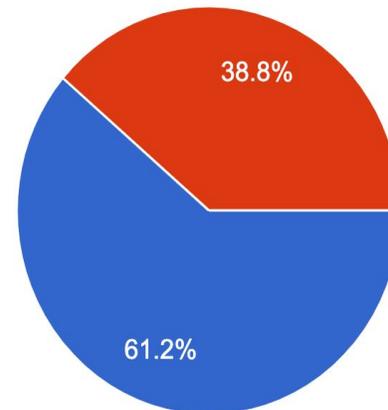
970 responses



- Yes (I am opposed to appropriate hygiene practices instruction)
- No (I am not opposed to appropriate hygiene practices instruction)
- NA (not planning to send my child to school for face-to-face instruction)

As a parent, will you volunteer for your child's campus if Peaster ISD requires all visitors to wear a face covering?

970 responses

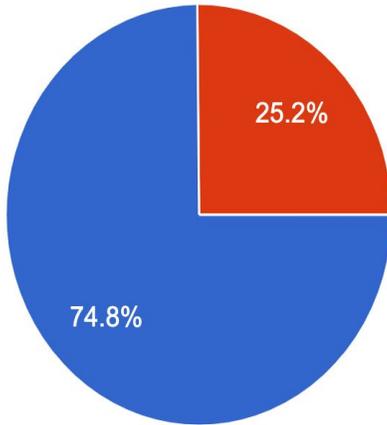


- Yes
- No

# Parent participation

As a parent, will you participate in parent/teacher conferences if Peaster ISD requires all visitors to wear a face covering?

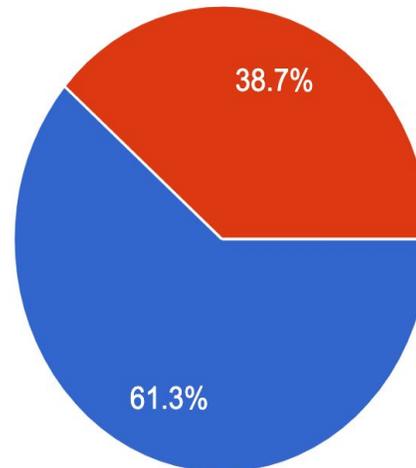
970 responses



● Yes  
● No

As a parent, will you attend events, such as fall festivals or extra-curricular activities, at your child's campus if Peaster ISD requires all visitors to wear a face covering?

970 responses

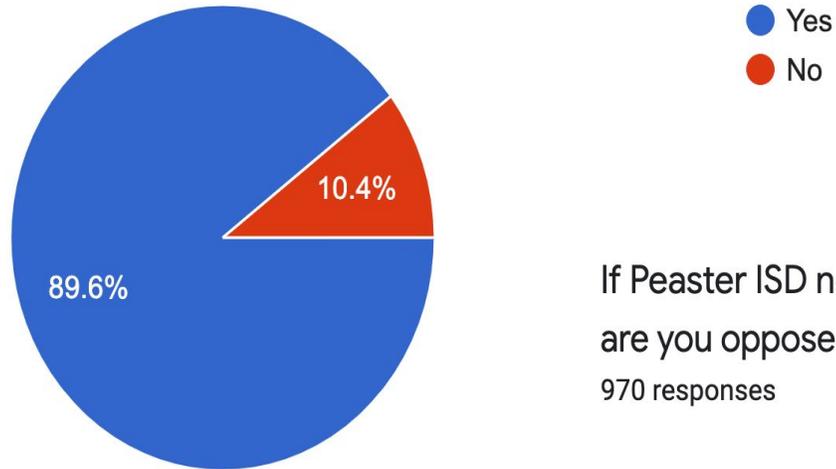


● Yes  
● No

# Visitor Health Screenings and Move School Start Date

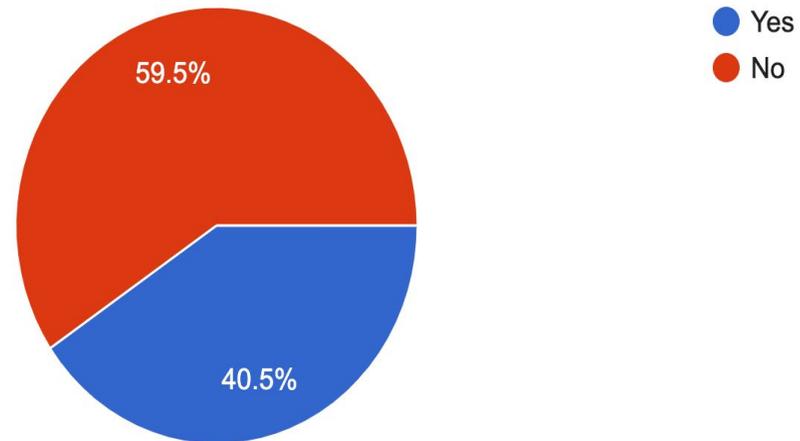
We will continue to have a need for parent involvement and support in our buildings. T.E.A. is requiring any visitors and parents coming into the contact, with each campus secretary upon entry?

970 responses



If Peaster ISD needed more time to plan for the start of school, based on the feedback we receive, are you opposed to moving the school start date based on the feedback we receive, we will notify the community by July 31, 2020.)

970 responses



# Face-to-face vs. Virtual Learning



- Both start August 19
- Three week grace period at the beginning of school to allow for a one time switch between models.
- Notify your campus secretary by **August 7** if you are choosing the virtual learning option for the start of school.
- Virtual learners will need access to the internet to choose this option.

# Side by Side comparison

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### On Campus

### Calendar

### Virtual

- Will follow the adopted 2020-2021 calendar.
- First day of school - Aug 19, 2020

- Will follow the adopted 2020-2021 calendar.
- First day of school - Aug 19, 2020

## **Attendance**

- Will be taken daily.
- 90% attendance is required for credit and truancy laws will apply.

- Will require a virtual learning orientation with their principal for all secondary students either in person or via ZOOM.
- Will be taken daily as students engage in online content.
- 90% attendance is required for credit and truancy laws will apply.
- Student must have access to the internet.

## **Switching Instructional Models (First 3 weeks grace period/1 change ONLY)**

- May change to Virtual Learning at the request of the parent.
- Once Virtual, may request to switch to On-Campus Learning only at the start of a grading period. Individual circumstances will be reviewed at the campus level.

- Commit to Virtual Learning for entire grading cycle.
- Parents may request to switch to On-Campus Learning only at the start of a grading period. Individual circumstances will be reviewed at the campus level.

# Side by Side comparison

On Campus

Virtual

## Grades and Credit

- Grades and credit will be awarded as outlined in teachers' grading guidelines and following district policy.

- Grading guidelines and weights will be identical to on-campus learning.

## Transportation

- Will be provided both before and after school.
- Parents are encouraged to transport students if possible to reduce the number of students on the bus.

- Will not be provided for virtual learners.

## Food Service

- Breakfast and lunch will be provided at school as usual.

- Parents will be responsible for breakfast and lunch for virtual learners.
- PISD will provide to-go meals for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

# Side by Side comparison

On Campus

Virtual

## ***EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES***

### **UIL Extracurricular Activities**

- On-campus students may participate in UIL activities as prescribed by guidance from UIL

- Virtual learners may participate in UIL activities as prescribed by guidance from UIL
- Must attend scheduled practices and competitions required by sponsor.

### **Non-UIL Extracurricular Activities**

- On-campus students may participate in non-UIL extracurricular activities.

- Virtual learners may participate in non-UIL extracurricular activities.
- Must attend scheduled practices and competitions required by sponsor.

# Side by Side comparison

On Campus

Virtual

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **Health Checks**

- Required to “Self-Monitor” prior to getting on a bus or arriving at school by taking temperatures and monitoring symptoms of Flu/ COVID.
- Any student with a fever will need to remain at home.
- Communicate symptoms with school nurse.
- Any student showing symptoms will immediately be taken to the school nurse.

- Self-monitor symptoms at home and communicate with your health care provider as needed.

### **Face Masks/Coverings**

- PISD welcomes all staff, students, and parents who choose to wear a face covering. If worn, face coverings will adhere to school dress code rules. PISD will have a limited supply available for students, staff, and parent volunteers who request them.

- No face masks/coverings will be needed for virtual learning while at home.

### **Instruction While Sick or Symptomatic**

- Students who become sick or symptomatic will need to remain home until 48-hour symptom/medicine free, or with a doctor release.
- If students must remain home multiple days, they may switch to Virtual Learning instruction.
- Once at-home quarantine medical orders are lifted, students may return to On-Campus Learning.

- Students who are sick or symptomatic may continue in Virtual Learning instruction and be counted “present.”
- If parent decides the symptoms are too severe to engage in work, student will be counted “absent” for days they do not engage in Virtual Learning instruction.

# Side by Side comparison

On Campus

Virtual

## **INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Teachers**

- Certified PISD Teachers and Qualified Subs will instruct students daily in class, and will be available for tutoring before and after school daily.

- Certified PISD teachers will monitor online work, assign grades, and communicate with parents and students regularly each week.
- Teachers will have regular “office hours” and can be communicated with through email.

### **Instructional Resources**

- Will use adopted textbooks, online resources, and other teacher created resources aligned to TEKS.

- Will use online programs, such as, Apex, Google Classroom, Video Instruction, etc.

### **Course Availability**

- All courses in the PISD course catalog will be available for students.

- All core courses will be available online for students and will be delivered in an asynchronous model with independent work on the part of the student.
- Some elective courses at Middle School and High School will not be available for Virtual Learning due to the need for equipment or lab time.
- Certain courses (such as CTE or advanced science courses) may require students to visit the campus to complete projects or labs in order to receive credit.

# Mitigation Efforts

- Each campus now has a licensed healthcare professional
- Working toward a partnership with PCHD to provide quicker access to a physician for staff and students.
- Good hygiene instruction on the first day of school for all students

# Mitigation Efforts

- All classrooms supplied with hand sanitizer
- All entrance points supplied with hand sanitizer
- All reception areas supplied with hand sanitizer
- No perfect attendance award this year. Will be replaced with “Perfect Participation”

# Mitigation Efforts

- Students who feel ill will immediately report to the school nurse
- Increased cleaning of frequently grabbed areas (door knobs, light switches, etc.)
- Staff, parent, student daily self screening for flu/COVID symptoms before coming to schools
- Students are not allowed to ride the bus if flu/COVID symptoms are present

# Mitigation Efforts

- Flu/COVID symptom questionnaire for school volunteers
- Required temperature check for staff, students, parents who show symptoms for flu/COVID while at school
- PISD welcomes all staff, students, and parents who choose to wear a face covering. Face coverings will adhere to school dress code rules. PISD will have a limited supply available for students, staff, and parent volunteers who want them.

# Mitigation Efforts

- Parents are encouraged to bring their child to school and pick them up when possible to help prevent overcrowding of buses
- Teachers will be provided desk shields for their desk if requested (*not student desks*)
- Professional grade and professionally applied disinfectant coating used quarterly or as needed on all surfaces and buses.

# Protocols for Reported Illness and School Closure

- Medically confirmed illness- physicians orders must be followed
- Non-medically confirmed illness- 48 consecutive hours symptom free without the use of medication before returning to school
- Three consecutive days of 10% absenteeism below our ADA for face-to-face learning on any campus will trigger a five day shut down of that campus for deep cleaning and student recovery time. All students will receive their work for those five days online or through packets from their teachers.

# Protocols for Reported Illness and School Closure

- We are a small community. Medically confirmed illnesses will not be shared with the community for privacy reasons. If an illness outbreak occurs on a campus, we will close that campus for 5 consecutive days.
- Volunteers and parents meeting with staff should be symptom free for 48 consecutive hours without the use of medication

# Community Partnership

Our schools are the heartbeat of our community. The board of trustees and administrators are committed to supporting our students and community during a time when fear seems to be taking control of many areas. We recognize our parents need to work. We recognize our schools provide a safe place for students to come together and receive the public education they deserve from the most qualified people on the planet, our teachers. However, we cannot do this without the partnership and support of our parents and community. If we desire to keep our schools open for direct classroom instruction, we must work to ensure each of us remains as healthy as possible. We want to ensure our staff can be at work each day to work with our children. We want our children to have a full year of great experiences in all they do. To do this, we must all work together and be responsible for ourselves. If your child is sick, please keep them home. If you are sick, please do not visit the school. This responsibility is not COVID or flu specific, it is simply the right thing to do. I believe if we work together and use **common sense** and **personal responsibility**, Peaster Texas will continue to thrive and God will continue to bless us.

# Questions?

- Please fill out a 3x5 card on your way out with your question and email address. We will provide an answer as soon as possible.
- Please email your campus principal if you have questions related to your child's learning model.

Thank you for coming!

Go Greyhounds!