

ESSER III
Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan



**Albany Independent
School District**

Purpose

This plan was developed for Albany Independent School District to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff due to COVID-19.

History

On March 9-13, 2020, Albany ISD was closed for Spring Break.

On March 16, 2020, Albany ISD remained closed. The AISD Board of Trustees met for their regular board meeting along with The City of Albany Mayor and City Manager. The decision to remain closed was decided by the board for an additional two weeks. Daily zoom meetings between the superintendent, Jonathan Scott and the district staff as well as parents and community members were held to provide announcements and updates.

On March 31, 2020, Gov. Abbott issued an Executive Order implementing Essential Services and Activities Protocols for the entire state of Texas. The protocols renew the Governor's directive to avoid eating or drinking inside bars, restaurants, and food courts, although use of drive-thru, pickup, and delivery is highly encouraged. The order prohibits visiting gyms or massage establishments, and expands to include tattoo studios, piercing studios, and cosmetology salons. It also extends social distancing measures to April 30, 2020, and schools will remain closed to in-person classroom attendance through May 4, 2020.

On April 29, 2020, Shackelford County Judge Robert Skelton, signed the Attestation for Rural Counties with Five or Fewer Laboratory Confirmed Cases of COVID-19.

On July 2, 2020, Gov. Abbott issued Executive Order GA-29, requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases, with few exceptions.

On August 17, 2020, Shackelford County Judge Robert Skelton, sought and was approved an exemption for Shackelford County of the Executive Order GA-29. For a county to be exempt from the face-coverings requirement of GA-29 the county must (1) have 20 or less active COVID-19 cases, and (2) County judge must submit an exemption from affirmatively opting out.

On August 19, 2020, Albany ISD began the new school year with in-person instruction and followed the exempt status of GA-29 face-coverings. Albany ISD provided an Asynchronous plan for the first two six-weeks of instruction for anyone required to quarantine due to illness, close contact, or those wishing not to return to campus.

On November 16, 2020, the Albany Board of Trustees, approved to provide remote learning to those students required to quarantine due to illness or close contact starting the 3rd Six-weeks.

On March 2, 2021, Gov. Abbott issued Executive Order GA-34, relating to opening Texas 100% and the removal of the statewide mask mandate.

On May 18, 2021, Gov. Abbott issued Executive Order GA-36, stating that after June 4, 2020, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor may not be required to wear a face covering.

Albany ISD Return to In-Person and Continuity of Service Plan

The following measures were and are used to provide the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff:

Masks:

- Masks will not be required to be worn at school per the exemption from GA-29 and GA-36.
- Student groups subject to UIL requirements will wear masks per UIL guidelines.

Handwashing:

- Sanitizing stations are placed on each campus around entrances and restrooms.
- Younger grade levels are taught proper handwashing techniques by the school nurse and classroom teachers.

Modifying Facilities:

- Campus Cafeteria:
 - Plastic dividers are placed on top of serving lines to separate the food serving area from students and staff.
 - Social distancing required at cafeteria tables.
 - Outdoor eating areas are provided.
- Water Fountains are covered; except one water fill station on each campus.
- Classrooms, Gyms, Weight Rooms
 - Cleaned daily
 - For gyms and stadiums, limited seating capacity based on UIL guidelines.

Contact Tracing

- The district does not contact trace.
- The district relies on the State Health Department for contact tracing.
- The district does:
 - Report any positive cases to the State Health Department.
 - Communicates with those students, staff, and parents in the event of a positive case in a particular classroom, sporting team, etc.
 - Screen students and staff upon their return from quarantine.

- o Determine to close a campus, program, department, or classroom based on 20% positivity of COVID-19 or Flu within that particular setting.
- The district's SHAC committee meets at least four times a year to discuss and evaluate the health needs of both students and staff.

Provide Vaccination to the School Community

- The district has and will:
 - o Provide information to students and staff of locations and opportunities for COVID-19 vaccines.
 - o Continue to communicate with state and local officials on the status of COVID-19 vaccines.

Continuity of Service

Academics Needs:

- Student's will be locally assessed multiple times a year to track their academic progress.
- Remediation and tutorial services are provided Monday-Thursday after school through Cub Academy for the elementary campus or Lion Academy for the secondary campus.
- Individual remediation and tutorial service before school can be provided via coordination between student and teacher.
- State assessments are evaluated.
- Summer school is provided for those students needing credit recovery and/or remediation.

Social-emotional & Mental Health:

- A school counselor is available at each campus to provide guidance on social-emotional and mental health needs.
- The district partners with CATR (Campus Alliance for Telehealth Resources), Texas Tech University Health Science Center
- Guidance classes are provided to the elementary classes on a monthly basis by the school counselor.
- For the 2021-22 school year and continuing into 2022-2023, an additional school counselor will be provided to the secondary campus (7th-12th grades) to provide a more focused effort for social-emotional and mental health needs.
- Additional staff added in the 2022-2023 school year to make our students and staff feel more secure with changes from the past few years. A Directory of School Safety and Operations was added.

