



 **KIPP:**
TEXAS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FALL RESTART

August, 2020



Introduction

We are so excited to welcome our KIPPsters to the 2020-2021 school year. We have missed them over the summer! Though this school year will feel different from those past, we remain just as committed to providing a joyful, academically excellent education, ensuring KIPPsters have the confidence and skills they need to pursue the paths they choose—college, career, and beyond—and lead fulfilling lives.

From the very start of the pandemic, KIPP Texas Public Schools have exhibited our collective strength in mobilizing the support and resources necessary to begin our school year safely and responsibly. We have created this “at-a-glance” document to highlight some of our back-to-school processes, practices, and considerations.

A plan of such complexity requires input from a wide array of perspectives. In addition to listening to students and families, our decisions were informed by the advice and guidance of our KIPP Texas Leadership Team, our Restart Committee, teachers and staff, city and county leaders, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), community leaders, and medical professionals.

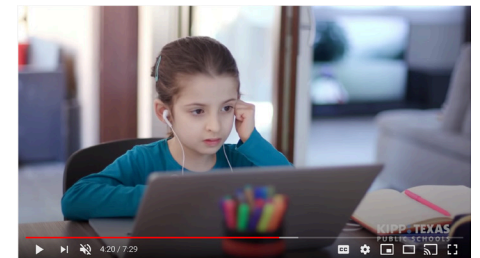
We will have more details in our upcoming Family Back-to-School Guide.

Safety Video

To better understand the KIPP Texas approach to health and safety, we created a video that shows “a day in the life” of a KIPPster. Please take a look with your Little KIPPster!

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

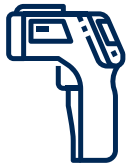


Safety Guidelines



Masks

Face coverings are required inside any KIPP Texas building, on any KIPP Texas campus, and aboard any KIPP Texas bus. Face coverings must cover the mouth and nose and are required for anyone two years of age or older. If you forget your mask, there's no need to worry, we'll give you one when you arrive.



Temperature Screening

All students, staff, and visitors will be temperature checked before entering any KIPP Texas building. If your student is measured with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they will need to be picked up immediately.



Hand Hygiene

Every adult and student must sanitize their hands when they first arrive on campus and any time they enter a new room or space. Sanitizer will be provided in each classroom. Additionally, specific periods throughout the day will be designated for students and staff to wash their hands with soap and water.



Daily Self Health Assessment

Each day before a student comes to school, all parents and guardians must check if their student has any of the symptoms listed in the [KIPP Texas checklist](#). If a student is sick, or feeling sick, they must stay home. Please call their school, and seek professional medical attention, as appropriate.



COVID-19 Symptoms on Campus

Per CDC recommendations, any person exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be assumed to have COVID-19 unless a negative test or alternative diagnosis by a medical professional deems otherwise. Students may not return to campus until they meet the conditions of our Rapid Response Protocol, detailed in our Back-to-School Guide.



Positive COVID-19 Case in the Community

If any student, teacher, or staff tests positive for COVID-19, they can return to the campus only when all three of the following conditions are met:

- At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); **AND**
- The student has improvement in symptoms (i.e., cough, shortness of breath); **AND**
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

As with all health information, this information is treated as confidential.

We know this broad overview raises numerous “what if” scenarios, and your child’s school will address as many of these as possible in their future communication.

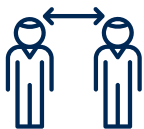
The Campus



Cleaning and Sanitation

High-touch and high-traffic areas will be disinfected multiple times a day.

EPA-certified will be used every night in all classrooms, restrooms, offices, and other common spaces. Disinfecting foggers will be used before the start of every instructional cycle, and in any area where a suspected illness has occurred.



Hallways

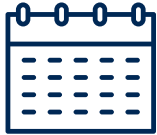
When possible, hallways will be one-directional, and floors will be marked to ensure students maintain a six-foot distance from each other.



Visitors

Campus visitors will be limited to those essential to school operations. We ask that family members refrain from visiting campuses as much as possible during this time. All visitors will have their temperature taken and will be required to wear a face covering at all times.

The School Day



School Schedule and Calendar

KIPP Texas will begin the school year on August 24 with 100% virtual learning, and we will make an announcement when the option for on-campus instruction will begin.

KIPP Texas has updated our academic calendars. We may amend our calendars during the school year, and we will inform you of any changes. Here are the most updated school calendars by region:

[KIPP Texas - Austin](#)

[KIPP Texas - Dallas-Fort Worth](#)

[KIPP Texas - Houston](#)

[KIPP Texas - San Antonio](#)



Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival and dismissal procedures will be structured to reduce large group gatherings and promote social distancing guidelines. The specific procedures will be communicated by your child's school.



Bus Riders

Bus riders must wear face coverings and will be seated six feet apart from other riders when possible. Siblings, however, can sit together.



Breakfast, Lunch, and Grab and Go Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in classrooms to ensure social distance. In cafeterias, where students will pick up food, floor decals will be placed to indicate where students should stand. Our food service staff will have their temperature verified each day and will wear face coverings and gloves during food preparation and service.

Grab & Go breakfast and lunch will be distributed everyday, starting on August 24, to any KIPPster learning virtually. For details on locations and distribution times, click **[HERE](#)**. Once students return to in-person instruction, meal service will continue at the school after school.



Classroom Changes

In order to keep students and staff safe, classrooms may look a little different! Desks and tables will be placed to ensure six feet of space between students when possible, and floor markings to identify where students should line up. KIPPsters and teachers will wear face coverings during class.



Classroom Materials

Your schools will provide a specific list of supplies based on grade level that KIPPsters will need for in-person and virtual learning. In addition, families are asked to provide a mask, a laptop and device charger (see technology section), headphones/earbuds, a water bottle, a pocket-sized bottle of hand sanitizer, and a backpack for in-person instruction. If you need help obtaining these materials or are experiencing financial hardship, please reach out to your school's front office—we're happy to assist. Students will not share any materials (markers, pencils, calculators, etc.) in the classroom.



Technology

All students will need a laptop and internet access to participate in virtual and in-person learning. Students who do not have access to a laptop will be issued a KIPP Texas device to use at home. Your child's school will communicate when those devices are available for pickup.



Uniforms

During the 20-21 school year, students who are 100% virtual learners will not have to wear uniforms but will be required to wear appropriate clothing on camera (i.e., no pajamas or clothing with inappropriate language). We are evaluating our uniform policy and practices moving forward, and we'll tell you soon what will be needed for in-person learning.



Recess and PE

Movement and outdoor activities are important for all of us! Students will still enjoy their recess and PE time, but physical activities will be modified to follow social distancing practices. All equipment will be sanitized before use.

Academics



100% Virtual Learning to Start the Year

Since your student will be spending a large part of the day in virtual instruction, it is important to set up a place in your home that promotes learning and gives your child the space and quiet to do school work.

KIPP Texas will use Google Classrooms for virtual learning. Students will login to their Google Classroom accounts to receive instructional materials and guidance. Your KIPPster's school will share a step-by-step guide detailing how to log into Google Classroom.



Method of Learning

Once we start the phasing-in of in-person instruction, families can select from one of two methods of learning options for their KIPPster:

Option 1: 100% online learning, five-days-a week. Virtual learning this fall will require students to log in and complete daily work assignments online and/or log into a virtual classroom at a specific time to get instruction from each of their assigned teachers. Our 100% online model includes a blend of both asynchronous and synchronous learning.

Option 2: 100% in-person learning, five-days-a-week in a classroom on our campus.

Every six weeks, parents will be asked to update their child's method of learning in [SchoolMint](#) and confirm their child's transportation and technology needs. Our method of learning instructional cycles (virtual or in-person) begin every nine weeks.



Attendance

It is important that whether your child is attending school virtually or in-person that they are participating in class **every day**. Attendance will be measured daily based on your child's method of learning.



Electives/Extracurricular Activities/Sports

Electives such as art, dance, music and visual arts will continue as planned during the school year, with modifications made for health and safety. We are pausing all athletics practices, games, and after-school activities; we will continue to monitor UIL guidelines. More information on this will be shared soon.



Final Registration

In the spirit of safety and simplicity, we have moved most of our registration materials online in [SchoolMint](#). In addition, each school will host a drive-thru portion to pick-up transportation cards and devices. Be on the lookout for more information coming from your child's school.



Communications

KIPP Texas Public Schools is committed to transparent and timely communication. Family updates are shared by email, on our [website](#), and our social media channels — [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

KIPP Texas now uses SchoolMessenger to send text messages and emails with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts, and more. If you have not already done so, please opt into SchoolMessenger in order to receive our communication using the information on this [flyer](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's school.



Help Prepare Your KIPPster

Please have your child practice wearing a mask around the house for hours at a time to prepare for school. Please talk to your KIPPster about the importance of keeping their mask on, not trading masks with a friend, and making sure the mask covers their mouth and nose at all times.

Please make sure your KIPPster knows how far two arms lengths is so that they can socially distance.

Please practice hand-washing with your child. KIPPsters should sing the Happy Birthday song two times every time they wash their hands.

Please remind your child to charge their devices each evening at home to ensure they are prepared for the school day.

