

# Groveton Independent School District

## Return to School Plan

### 2021-2022



*"We believe that the purpose of this district is to educate all students to high levels of academic performance, while fostering growth in social/emotional behavior and attitudes. We accept the responsibility to teach all students so they can attain their maximum educational potential."*

## **Instructional Information for Families**

Groveton ISD's in-school instructional practices ensure the safety of students and staff to the best of our ability. **Students will attend classes five days a week, with additional safety measures, in alignment with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.**

- Students will engage in high-quality learning experiences aligned to Groveton ISD curriculum and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills;
- Groveton ISD will utilize the strategies and best practices associated with blended learning to design learning activities for all students;
- Resources will be provided for students to access the curriculum, assignments, and instruction;

## **Return to School Health and Safety Protocols**

Below are the Return to School protocols for Groveton ISD campuses and administration buildings. Since this is an ever-changing situation, the district may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Groveton ISD will continue to consult available guidance through governmental agencies and other information deemed relevant to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

### **School Preparations**

Groveton ISD ensures all staff, resources, and supplies are prepared for school, including but not limited to assigning sufficient staff to carry out protocols, ensuring proper training, and stocking inventory of necessary supplies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations, and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Groveton ISD implements health and safety plans that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory (e.g., cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.);
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Health and Human Services, the Texas Education Agency, and other jurisdictional policies;

- Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings.

Groveton ISD is committed to the health, safety, and welfare of all students and staff members as well as our community. We will follow the guidance and best practices of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), Public Health Region 04/05N Health Department, Texas Education Agency (TEA), and local governance. This is a living document, which is subject to change based upon government mandates or changes. The information within is to be used to help families make decisions for the well-being of their children and the protocols and policies listed below are recommendations for the safety of all.

**Masks / Face Coverings** - At this time, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a face covering or mask; however, wearing approved face coverings is optional and left to the discretion of each individual or family.

**Visitors** - Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases within our area and state, no visitors or parents will be allowed to come to school for lunch until further notice. If you need to visit our campuses for any reason, please call ahead and make an appointment to enter our facilities. GUSD will evaluate this protocol on a monthly basis and will make future determinations in the best interest of our students and staff members.

**Self-Screening for Staff & Students** - Teachers, staff, and students must report to campus/district administration if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. Additionally, teachers, staff, and students must report to campus/district administration if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined in this document, and, if so, must remain off campus for a period of 10 days.

**Close Contact** - "Close contact" is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as: being directly exposed to an infected individual; or being within 6 feet of an infected individual for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield.

**Protocols for Individuals Confirmed, or Suspected to COVID-19** - Any individual, including teachers, staff, students or other campus visitors/volunteers, who either are

lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or experience symptoms of COVID-19 (as described in this document) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to the campus until the school screens the individual to determine if the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met.

**Confirmed COVID-19** - Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested. In the case of an individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- 1) 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- 2) the individual has improvement in symptoms; and
- 3) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

**Suspected COVID-19** - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19. The individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above. If an 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 a confirmation that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>

**Exposed COVID-19** - Individuals, including students, teachers, staff or other campus visitors, and volunteers, who have had close contact (as defined at the beginning of this document) with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, **should check their temperature twice a day, stay away from people who are at a higher risk for getting sick from COVID-19 and should consider a 10 day self-quarantine for the health and safety of others.** At this time, a mandatory 10 day quarantine is only applicable for individuals who test positive for COVID-19. GISD will make every effort to keep families informed of possible exposures and we strongly recommend our families to follow the guidelines from our local health authorities, TEA, and the CDC to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

**Reporting Measures for Students or Staff Members** - If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the District must notify Public Health Region 04/05N Health Department and the Trinity County Emergency Health Care Manager in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**Communication / Questions** – In the event that you have questions about any of the information outlined in this document please feel free to contact our offices or school health professionals. Our offices are open 7:30 to 3:30 Monday through Friday and appointments can be scheduled by calling (936)-642-1473. For further guidance about COVID-19 protocols and best practices the following websites are helpful resources for providing families with additional information:

CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) – [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

TEA (Texas Education Agency) – <https://tea.texas.gov>

UIL (University Interscholastic League) – [www.uil-texas.org](http://www.uil-texas.org)

### **Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting**

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

### **Custodial Cleaning/PPE/Disinfecting**

- Provide multiple hand sanitizer stands to each campus;
- All restrooms cleaned two times per day;
- Student classrooms will be disinfected daily;
  - Custodians will clean classrooms, locker rooms, gyms, athletic equipment, and restrooms daily;
- Teacher desks and computers will be wiped and disinfected per request;
- Elementary and Secondary campuses will clean floors every night in hallways;
- Custodians will wear gloves while handling trash and cleaning.

### **School Arrival & Dismissal**

Please check with your child's campus for specific arrival and dismissal procedures. Parents picking up students during the day will need to call ahead so that students can be ready upon arrival.

### **Transportation**

The Groveton ISO Transportation Department offers the following guidance to parents and caregivers regarding school bus transportation for daily bus routes, as well as field trips.

Bus routes will run at regular capacity. Although the district is implementing the safety protocols and disinfecting efforts described below, families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible exposure on buses.

- It is strongly recommended parents help with supervising their child at the bus stop until the bus arrives;
- Use hand sanitizer (provided near the bus stairwell);
- Standard Groveton ISO transportation rules apply.

### **Disinfecting Protocol**

#### **At end of each school day:**

- School bus drivers, bus assistants, and staff will disinfect each bus daily focusing particularly on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and stairway handrail;
- When possible, bus windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

### **Cafeteria - Breakfast and Lunch**

Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge to all students and meals will be consumed in the cafeteria. If further mitigation is required throughout the school year, then other eating areas will be explored at that time between the campus administration and the Child Nutrition Department.

Even though meals will be free this year, parents/guardians will be requested to fill out an income questionnaire or meal application for the purpose of establishing rollover data for the start of the 2022-2023 school year and to help students qualify for certain programs offered throughout the school year.

The Groveton ISD Food Service Staff will continue to adhere to strict cleaning and sanitizing procedures as required by local food code and monitored by the local Health Department.

### **Campus Visitors**

All campus visitors are required to check in through the campus front office per standard District protocols.

### **School Events and Activities**

Any schoolwide events that are approved to be held on campus must adhere to requirements outlined by Groveton ISD, TEA, and UIL. (Examples: grade level pep rallies, assemblies, performances, etc.).

PTA and Boosters must collaborate with and seek approval from campus/district administration prior to any event that is planned.

## **Emergencies and Drills**

Groveton ISD will follow the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and its emergency actions of Secure (Lockout), Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter in Place.

Required safety drills will be scheduled per Texas School Safety Center guidelines.

## **Social and Emotional Learning**

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) can positively impact a student's attitude, behavioral, and academic outcomes. Groveton ISD is committed to SEL and the well-being of all students. With SEL, children and adults both acquire and apply the knowledge and skills that are necessary in managing emotions, achieving goals, showing empathy for others, maintaining positive relationships, and making responsible decisions.

### **Student**

- Students are encouraged to contact the school counselor in person, by phone, or by self-referral;
- All students will participate in social and emotional learning activities.

### **Parent**

- Parents are encouraged to talk with their child about their social and emotional well-being;
- Assist in supporting your child's social and emotional needs by contacting the counselor by phone, email, or in person
- Keep consistent schedules and routines at home.

### **Counselor**

- Deliver social and emotional learning lessons;
- Provide counseling for students;

- Provide trauma-informed/grief support;
- Provide information on community resources for mental health and social and emotional well-being;
- Support the development of coping and self-regulation skills, such as managing emotions, impulse control, and perseverance;
- Check in with students in need of assistance, as well as new students transitioning to their new campus.

### **Administrator/Teacher/Staff**

- Educators will consistently incorporate opportunities for social and emotional learning practice and reflection;
- Provide multi-tiered systems of support to students to address behavioral and social and emotional needs;
- Refer students in need of assistance to counselors.