

## Rains ISD FAQ: COVID-19

Rains ISD continues to closely monitor the situation surrounding COVID-19 and remains in close contact with local and state officials as well as area superintendents. New information is emerging daily, so we ask that families please continue to extend their grace and patience with us as we navigate this unprecedented time.

We will update and add to the following questions and answers as updates and new information becomes available. If you have a question that is not addressed below, please send an email to [rains@rainsisd.org](mailto:rains@rainsisd.org).

### 1. How will we be notified of changes and updates regarding school closure and at-home learning?

Rains ISD will continue to use multiple platforms to communicate to parents, students, and community regarding school closure, operational adjustments, and at-home learning through Facebook, Twitter, email, automated phone calls, and our district web page.

On Monday, March 23rd, all Rains ISD students have the opportunity to drive through at each campus to pick up assignments, journals, composition books, workbooks, supplies, instruments, etc. If parents have questions, they may send them to [rains@rainsisd.org](mailto:rains@rainsisd.org). **All campus offices will be closed; however, we will have someone available to answer questions and take messages daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If your question cannot be answered immediately, you will receive a phone call back from appropriate staff within 24 hours. All calls need to be directed to 903-473-2222 ext. 4112.**

\*Updated 3/31

### 2. How will meals be provided to students?

All students have access to free meals. Food service is provided to all children 0-18 free of charge, regardless of income. Students will receive two meals at one time: that day's lunch and breakfast for the next morning. There are two options to receive this free service. **STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE FOOD.**

- 1) **Drive-Thru:** Students may pick up breakfast and lunch at once from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Rains High School gym entrance on Mondays and Thursdays. On Mondays, breakfast and lunch for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be provided. On Thursday, breakfast and lunch for Thursday and Friday will be provided.

- 2) **Delivery:** If students are unable to pick up meals at the school, meal delivery begins on Wednesday, March 25. Meals will be delivered on an RISD suburban or bus to families who indicated a need. To be added to meal delivery, please fill out this [Google Form](#).
- 3) **Beginning Monday, March 30th**, meal delivery will take place on Mondays and Thursdays. On Mondays, breakfast and lunch for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be provided. On Thursday, breakfast and lunch for Thursday and Friday will be provided.

\*Updated 3/31

### 3. What is the plan for learning?

Parents, we are here to support you! We encourage you to set up a space for learning in your home. In this space, have paper and pen/pencil, crayons or map pencils, and a device with Internet access (if available).

Campuses have adjusted drop off and pick up times to the needs of their students and families. Specific campus times and dates may be found on their individual social media and the district social media. Families will stay in the car while staff members collect and deliver supplies to the vehicles. (All Pre-Kindergarten materials will be mailed to students.) This will be a week to get adjusted to our new at-home learning environment. Teachers will be posting lessons in Google Classroom and communicating by Zoom, email, and phone with students. Visit the [Rains ISD At-Home Learning site](#) to connect with free resources and your child's teacher.

Lobbies at the high school, intermediate and elementary are open from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm for drop off and pick up of work.

Assignments will adhere to the following guidelines:

- **PK-2** = No more than 30-45 minutes total per day for all assignments; 1 grade per subject
- **Grades 3-5** = No more than 2 assignments per week, per subject; 15-20 minutes per assignment
- **Grades 6-12 Core Classes** = No more than 2 assignments per week, per subject; 15-20 minutes per assignment

- **Grades 6-12 Electives** = No more than 1 assignment per week, per subject; 15-20 minutes per assignment
- **Optional Enrichment:** 30 minutes of reading, 30 minutes of physical activity, writing daily reflection, 60 minutes of other academic work

**4. What if I don't have Internet or a computer/digital device at home?**

You should have received a call from your child's teacher last week. They took down information about each student's access to technology. We are working on a system to get written work to our students in the coming week. People's Internet has set up wifi access on the west end of the Rains Junior High building. The county has also created some areas next to the park and at the courthouse square where wifi is available. You can go to the [Rains County Emergency Management Facebook](#) page for details. Some providers are offering free or low-cost internet to students during this time. We will be trying to get that information out this week as well.

**5. What will happen with graduation?**

It is too soon to make a decision about graduation. We will make certain that the Class of 2020 has a graduation celebration, even if it is not traditional.

**6. What will happen with prom?**

At this time, prom has been postponed.

**7. What will happen with STAAR tests?**

On March 16, the Governor waived all STAAR testing and testing requirements for the state of Texas for 2019-2020.

If a graduating senior still needs to pass STAAR tests, he/she will be able to sit for an Individual Graduation Committee (IGC), and the committee will determine whether the senior met local graduation criteria.

Students currently enrolled in End-of-Course tested subjects (typically grades 9-10) will essentially be given a waiver for the test(s) for the remainder of their high school career if they are currently passing the course(s). For example, a freshman who is in Algebra I, English I, and Biology this year will not be required to take those EOC exams now or in the future if the student has passing grades in those courses.

RISD teachers will be reaching out to students to ensure that they have support to successfully complete EOC courses: English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, U.S. History, and Biology.

Grades 3-8 will have all STAAR tests are waived for this year as well.

**8. What will happen with dual credit classes for TAMU-C and TVCC?**

Students who had online classes will continue as before. Classes that had a professor coming out from TAMU-Commerce will be transitioning to online.

The Dean of Students at RHS has contacted all dual credit students about the transition and is addressing their needs. Students may need to contact TAMU-C or TVCC if they do not know their college email account information.

Dual Credit instructors working for Rains ISD will be contacting their students and working on the transition to online instruction as well.

**9. What will happen with class rank and GPA for seniors?**

For our seniors, class rank for graduation is determined at the end of the 3rd nine weeks (according to policy), which was March 20th.

**EIC (LOCAL)** “For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the third nine-weeks grading period of the senior year. For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank as required by state law. The District’s eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]”

**10. Will students have to make up the days we miss in the summer?**

We have additional minutes in our instructional calendar that will cover two days of missed school. We will be applying for a waiver for 4200 additional minutes and submitting an attestation to the Texas Education Agency for the other days of at-home learning. We do not anticipate that students will have to “make up” days at the end of the year as we are supporting at-home learning.

**11. How will attendance be taken during at-home learning?**

Staff will be connecting with students through a phone call or video conference at least once per week. Teachers will be monitoring work and tracking progress made by students. Formal attendance tracking will not resume until school resumes regular operations.

**12. How will Advanced Placement testing work?**

According to AP: "The AP Program is developing resources to help schools support student learning during extended closures, as well as a solution that would allow students to test at home, depending on the situation in May. Additional information will be posted by March 20." We will update as we get more information.

**13. How is RISD cleaning and sanitizing the buildings?**

Our custodial staff and maintenance teams clean, sanitize, and fog campuses daily. Before students and staff return to work, additional cleaning and sanitizing will take place.

**14. What do I do if my child(ren) show signs of illness?**

For information about caring for someone that is sick please see the following link:

[COVID19 - Caring for someone at home](#)

**15. What do I tell my child(ren) about the virus and how do I help them understand what is happening?**

- [PBS News Hour](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists](#)

**16. What if I need counseling support for my child?**

If you have a counseling need for your child during the school closure, please reach out to [rains@rainsisd.org](mailto:rains@rainsisd.org) with the name of your child, grade level, and concern. A school counselor will contact you.

**17. Will my child receive support for special education, 504, and/or dyslexia?**

These are unprecedented times; the guidance we receive from TEA and other agencies has been changing daily. Special education, 504, and/or dyslexia staff will

determine the best way to proceed in continuing to provide the supplemental services that are in the students' IEP or 504 plan. Any future ARD/504 meetings that may need to be held will be through phone or video conferencing. Staff will also be reaching out to check on progress. Special education teachers will be providing accommodations and materials to the RISD general learning plan. Students' assignments should contain individualized accommodations according to their education plan. If you have any questions, please email your child's teacher.

**18. My family's financial status has changed; do I qualify for free or reduced lunch and breakfast now?**

Every child in RISD will receive access to two meals daily during the period of school closure regardless of free or reduced status. If your family's financial status has changed, you can contact Courtney Short at [shortc@rainsisd.org](mailto:shortc@rainsisd.org) for guidance on completing an application.

**19. Does the district need any volunteers to help deliver or serve food?**

We appreciate all of the requests from the community to help. We want to follow state and federal procedures and guidelines about social distancing, so at this time, Rains ISD staff will manage food preparation and delivery. If your business/organization is providing aid/relief to students and families and would like to be listed on the Rains ISD website, please send that information to [rains@rainsisd.org](mailto:rains@rainsisd.org).

**20. I want to help others; how can we help?**

The District is incredibly grateful for so many offers to help our children and families during this time. We know that Good Samaritans is working to help families, so please check with them to see what donations are needed. If your business/organization would like to be listed on the Rains ISD Community Resource guide that we are working to create, please email [rains@rainsisd.org](mailto:rains@rainsisd.org).

**21. What if my child already paid for a field trip that is cancelled?**

We will be reimbursing families for direct payments made to school (not fundraising) or rescheduling trips that were cancelled. We will have more information on this soon and will post here.

**22. What if I don't feel safe for my child to return to school?**

Once school resumes, if you do not feel safe for your child to return to school due to concerns regarding COVID-19, please keep the child at home and provide documentation to the school that concern of COVID-19 is the reason for the child's absence.

**23. I am not receiving district updates by at least one of the following methods (email, automated phone calls, teacher calls) and would like to be added to contact lists. What do I need to do?**

Email [gilliardp@rainsisd.org](mailto:gilliardp@rainsisd.org) with your updated contact information.

**24. How do I enroll or withdraw from Rains ISD during the school closure?**

If you need to enroll in Rains ISD during school closure, call RISD at 903-473-2222 ext 4112 between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. We will take down contact information and have a campus staff member call you to walk you through the online enrollment process. [You can begin online enrollment here](#). The campus principal will connect you with your child's new teacher and will make sure that you have all that you need to begin at-home learning.

Should you withdraw during this time of closure, please call RISD at 903-473-2222 ext 4112 between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. We will ask you to return any RISD materials assigned to your child (library book, textbooks, etc.) to central office at 1759 W. US Hwy 69 by appointment. We will assist you in the withdrawal process during the appointment.

**25. Will parents who have made payments to the Child Development Center be reimbursed for time of closure?**

Yes, refunds will be issued as soon as the district can determine the length of the closure.

**26. How long will the district be closed?**

Rains ISD will continue to follow guidance from the state health department, the Texas Education Agency, and state and local officials regarding school closure.