

Cayuga Independent School District
Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan
Revised August 21, 2023

Attendance Requirements

In accordance with the Texas Education Code, specifically Chapter 25.092, with very limited exceptions, students must attend at least ninety percent of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This attendance requirement remains in effect during the 2023-2024 school year.

Students who are absent from school because they have COVID-19 may be excused for days missed in excess of the ninety percent rule if they complete all the assignments provided by their teachers before they return to school.

Health-Related Content From Cayuga ISD's Student Handbooks

State rules require schools to exclude students with COVID-19 and certain other illnesses from school.

A parent should contact the school nurse if a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or may have COVID-19. For situations in which students become ill during the school day, the school nurse shall determine whether or not the child should go home.

The district is required to report certain contagious (communicable) diseases or illnesses to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) or our local/regional health authority. The school nurse can provide information from TDSHS on these notifiable conditions. The school nurse is also available to answer any questions for parents who are concerned about whether or not their child should stay home.

The remainder of Cayuga ISD's Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan is based on the following guidance from the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

MOST RECENT “PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE” FROM THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Executive Order GA-38 (GA-38), which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code, requires Texas public school systems to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the published guidance of the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This document constitutes TEA’s guidance under GA-38 and takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance. Public school systems are to operate in compliance with existing state laws and regulations, including all executive orders issued by the governor of Texas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that are currently in effect.

The following are examples of existing state laws and regulations applicable to the operations of Texas public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, 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).*
- Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, school systems must exclude students from attending school in person who have or are suspected of having COVID-19, and must immediately notify parents if this is determined while on campus. As noted in the rule, exclusion shall continue until the conditions for re-entry are met:*
 - For children with symptoms, at least five days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free, and other symptoms have improved.*
 - Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least five days after the day they were tested.*
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding implementation of the state requirements referenced by this guidance.*

This guidance is subject to change as new information becomes available.

COVID-19 SCHOOL READMISSION CRITERIA
SOURCE: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

Coronavirus disease 2019 commonly referred to as COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school under 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7.

A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19.

Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.

The readmission criteria for COVID-19 are as follows:

- If symptomatic, exclude until at least five days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved.*
- Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least five days after the day they were tested.*

**Fever free for twenty-four hours without the use of fever suppressing medications.
Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.*