



Brownsville Independent School District

1900 Price Road Brownsville, Texas 78521-2417 (956) 548-8000 Fax: (956) 574-6497

Dr. Rene Gutierrez
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Due to the most recent COVID-19 developments, schools will remain closed until further notice. The health and safety for our students and staff is our top priority.

Our amazing teachers are doing an exceptional job in translating their expertise into distance learning. They will continue working diligently to ensure that our students receive continued instruction whether it is through **instructional packets** or **online distance learning**. Furthermore, all campus personnel (administration, counselors, teachers, etc.) can be reached through their campus main phone line or school email Monday through Friday from 8 AM-4 PM.

Distribution and Pick –Up of Instructional Materials

- **March 24, 2020 :** Packets distributed to students
- **April 13-17, 2020:** 1st Student Instructional Packets returned to campus
- **April 17-22, 2020:** Second round of packets posted online/mailed-out (upon parent request)
- **May 19-22, 2020:** 2nd Student Instructional Packets returned to campus

Parents please return instructional packets through campus drop-off or electronically. A drop-off box will be placed by the entrance gate of your child's school. Parents can drop off packet or they may scan the assignment and submit electronically to their child's teacher. Teachers can provide further guidance on the return of instructional packets electronically.

Grading Procedures

BISD will be sending two reports on your child's progress during the COVID-19 Closed, Instructing.

- **April 27, 2020:** Progress Reports mailed to parents
- **June 8, 2020:** Final Report Cards mailed to parents

Attendance

- Students are expected to check in with their teachers at least one time per week either via distance learning or via phone conferencing. Our students are valuable to BISD; we encourage you to communicate with teachers to monitor your child's progress.

State Assessments

We want to communicate the cancellation of all state assessment to include STAAR and STAAR End of Course (EOC).

- Students in **3rd through 8th** grade scheduled to take the **STAAR** will no longer have to take the test for the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Student Success Initiative (SSI)** requirements are waived for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Students who are on schedule to complete graduation requirements in spring 2020 but do not have the opportunity to retake a **STAAR EOC** assessment prior to graduation, the student is not required to pass that specific test to fulfill graduation requirements but will need to complete the **Individual Graduation Committee (IGC)** process. Essentially, this means that current seniors may graduate through the **IGC** process regardless of the number of EOC assessments they still need to pass. Any Seniors who fall in this category, **will be contacted** by a **guidance counselor** to assist with this process.
- Students not scheduled to graduate in spring 2020 and enrolled in a **STAAR EOC** course for the 2019-2020, the **STAAR EOC** passing requirement will be waived if the student receives credit for the course.
- Students not scheduled to graduate in spring 2020 and has an outstanding **STAAR EOC** assessment that they have not passed from a previous year, they will still need to retake and pass the **STAAR EOC** assessment prior to graduation.
- **SAT** and **ACT**: **College Board** and **ACT Inc** are suspending National Testing until June 2020. Registered students whose tests have been cancelled will receive a refund.

BISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or genetic information in employment or provision of services, programs or activities

- **TSIA:** Updates forthcoming.
- **Advance Placement (AP):** May 2020 AP exams will be modified and administer online at home. In the event that your child does not have internet access, please contact Sara Garza, Guidance and Counseling Administrator at 956.548.8251 email: saragarza@bisd.us

2020 Graduates

- Graduating Seniors who are concerned about not meeting graduation requirements must contact their Senior Counselor as soon as possible.

Industry Based Certification

- Students pending certifications may contact Career Placement Officer (CPO) as some certifications can be taken from home.
- More information forthcoming... any questions contact Dr. Juan Chavez Jr. @ 956.698.0093 email: jjrchavez@bisd.us

Special Education Services

- Students with disabilities will receive adequate and equitable services to meet their instructional needs.
- Protections provided by the **Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** applies equally to instruction taking place in a virtual environment as in a brick and mortar facility.
- Teachers will reach out to the parents of Special Education children via telephone or videoconferencing.
- Parents/guardians must be given a five-day notice unless they waive their notice similar to any planned ARD committee meeting.
- Parents/guardians should receive multiple modes of invitations (mail, phone call, etc.) as needed.
- Parents/guardians should have the option to request a face-to-face meeting once “At-Home-Learning” ends.

Food and Nutrition Services

- Effective April 14, breakfast and lunch meals for 5 days will be provided two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the 12 identified locations.
- Children must be in the car to receive a meal.

Technology Alert

Brownsville ISD Computer/Technology Services Department has created several systems to ensure your child remains safe when entering the bisd.us network. However, cybersecurity is a constant threat, especially when students are working remotely from home. We ask that you continue to monitor online safety at all times. Ensure you are aware of your child’s username and password and set limits to the online activities as needed. Your child, regardless of the online platform they are using we can monitor and protect your child’s work.

- If your child forgets the username and password, you may call your school directly or call the **Computer/Technology Hotline at 956-554-4775 from 8:00 am-2:00 pm for further assistance.**
- Please read the **Free Cyber Safety Resources** to assist your child further to be safe at all times, especially as we continue to provide instructional support for your child during the **COVID-19 school closure**. Free CYBER Safety Resources: <https://www2.ed.gov/free/features/cybersecurity.html>

Please continue to visit our District Webpage www.bisd.us , on the latest updates and contact information.

Thank you parents for your utmost continued support as we navigate together through these uncharted waters. Together we will continue to be an “A” rated district. We are grateful for our principals, teachers and staff as they facilitate and ensure closed, instructing successfully continues for all students.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rene Gutierrez

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