



**Alpine ISD 2023-2024  
Return to In-Person Instruction  
and Continuity Plan (RIPICS)**

**Safely Engaging Students and Staff**

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## Introduction and District Priorities

Alpine ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on August 15, 2023. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide excellent education to our students. We are planning for the opening of the 2023-2024 school year with a focus on continuity of services.

Our plan follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and state and local health officials.

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

Texas Education Agency Website:

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>

Alpine ISD is honored to provide education to the children in our district and we look forward to a successful school year.

## Key Priorities and Focus Areas

- Educational Excellence
- Emotional Wellness
- Public Health and Safety
- Instructional Continuity
- Communication

## Guidance

Throughout the ongoing efforts of our district, Alpine ISD will continue to respond to guidance from:

### FEDERAL

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

### STATE

- [The Office of the Texas Governor](#)
- [Texas Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#)
- [University Interscholastic League \(UIL\)](#)

# Section 1 Health and Safety Standards

Alpine ISD will work with local public health authorities to implement guidance from the Texas Education Agency and the Center for Disease Control.

Alpine ISD will follow Executive Order no. GA-38. Effective July 29, 2021, relating to the continued response to the COVID-19 disaster.

## Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Alpine ISD will follow Executive Order no. GA-36. Effective 11:59 p.m. on June 4, 2021, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor may be required to wear a face covering.

Individuals choosing to wear a face covering are advised to follow the Center for Disease Control's universal and correct use of masks guidance.

## Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Washing hands can prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Alpine ISD schools will encourage proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19. Schools will encourage these behaviors, especially during key times in the day (for example, before and after eating and after recess) and will also provide adequate handwashing supplies, including soap and water.

Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.

Schools will encourage covering coughs and sneezes to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

## Cleaning and Maintaining Facilities

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff. Alpine ISD schools will clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.

Maintenance staff will fog and disinfect classrooms, restrooms, athletics, fine arts areas and all additional areas throughout the school facility on an as needed basis. Maintenance staff will use one or more of the following disinfectants that are recommended for use on the virus that causes COVID-19:

- [Virus-Cide](#)
- [Re-Juv-Nal](#)
- [Husky 891Arena](#)

## Potential COVID Outbreak

If a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak, Alpine ISD staff will work with state and local health authorities in accordance with state and local regulations to consider additional prevention and mitigation strategies.

## Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting Agents

<b>Cleaning-Sanitizing-Disinfecting Agents (and links to MSDS information sheets)</b>
<b>Disinfecting Materials for Fogging and Spraying</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Virus-Cide</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Re-Juv-Nal</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Husky 891Arena</a></li></ul>
<b>Disinfecting Spray</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Clorox Disinfecting Spray</a></li></ul>
<b>Disinfecting Cleaners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Envy Foaming Disinfectant Cleaner</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Lysol Foaming Disinfectant Cleaner</a></li></ul>
<b>Disinfecting Wipes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Sani-Wipe Sanitizing Multi-Surface Wipes</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Boardwalk Disinfecting Wipes</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Clorox Disinfecting Wipes</a></li></ul>
<b>Hand Sanitizers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Aktive Antimicrobial Hand Sanitizer</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Symmetry Foaming Hand Sanitizer</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Rubanz Hand Gel Sanitizer</a></li></ul>

## Test-Confirmed Cases

TEA and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) require that school systems must exclude students, staff, and family members from attending school in person who

have or are suspected of having COVID-19. School systems must immediately notify parents if a student is determined to be actively sick with COVID-19 while on campus.

Per TEA guidance, parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. Similarly, staff members and family members may not return to campus until the conditions for re-entry are met.

Per TEA guidance, exclusion from school will continue until the conditions for re-entry are met:

- For individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms: at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset; individual is fever free; and other symptoms have improved.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 5 days after the day they were tested.

TEA requires the following actions if individuals with test-confirmed cases have been in a school:

1. 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).

## **Diagnostic and Screening**

COVID testing is provided at the high school by appointment only. Please call the high school at 432-837-7710 ext. 405 or email the nurse at [gowen@alpineisd.net](mailto:gowen@alpineisd.net) to schedule a COVID testing appointment.

## **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations**

Alpine ISD will coordinate with the Texas Department of State Health Services, Public Health Region 9/10, and local health providers to provide COVID-19 vaccinations per current guidelines.

## **Health and Safety Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

Alpine ISD will follow ARD Committee and 504 Plan recommendations for children with disabilities.

## Section 2 Continuity of Services

This fall, Alpine ISD will continue instructional practices to provide consistency and ensure the safety of students and staff.

Campus instructional schedules are as follows:

- **AHS - 7:55-3:35 (460 minutos)**
- **AMS - 7:55-3:46 (471 minutos)**
- **AES - 7:45-3:25 (460 minutos)**

Alpine ISD is committed to ensuring that students have an equitable experience and access to high quality instruction:

- Alpine ISD will continue to utilize strategies and best practices to design learning activities for all students.
- Learning experiences are designed to meet the needs of the learner.
- Students will engage in high quality learning experiences aligned to Alpine ISD curriculum and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

### Instruction

Students and teachers will attend class in-person, five days a week, with additional safety measures in alignment with state and federal guidelines and recommendations.

- In this setting, teachers will provide in-person instruction, learning resources and support utilizing Google Classroom if applicable.
- District-directed and campus-designed safety procedures will be implemented.
- Scheduling for In-Person Learning
  - Grades PK-2 – Self-contained schedule with rotations
  - Grades 3-4 – Schedules assigned based on grade level specific requirements
  - Grades 5-8 – Schedules assigned based on grade level specific requirements
  - Grades 9-12 – Schedules assigned based on their course selections.

Teachers can design small group time to differentiate instruction within the instructional block.

### Intervention and Enrichment

Intervention, enrichment, and tutorial time will be scheduled regularly for students to best meet their academic needs. During this time, students may engage in assigned group activities, project-based learning activities, small-group or individual instruction. Teachers will communicate with students and parents their plan for the designated time.



## Special Education Support

ARD Committees will determine the unique needs of students who receive special education services. The nature of special education interventions will likely require a heavier concentration to ensure that individual student needs are met. Progress will be carefully monitored and ARD Committees will convene as needed to make appropriate recommendations to meet individual student needs. This will ensure continued growth in the general education curriculum and on IEP goals and objectives.

Alpine ISD is committed to providing consistency in high-quality instruction and learning tools for all students.

## Instructional Roles

Preparation for Learning	
<b>Student</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Be prepared for learning each day and have work and assignments completed and ready.</li><li>● Complete coursework by deadlines set by teachers.</li><li>● Grades 3-12: Check district-assigned email each day.</li><li>● Grades EC-12: Ensure you are receiving class and district communications via Remind. If not, contact your teacher/campus.</li></ul>
<b>Parent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Access parent resources to learn how students will navigate online learning resources or packets (e.g., Google Classroom), if being used by the teacher.</li><li>● Encourage your child to have their appropriate supplies in their backpack, including their device (if applicable), the night before.</li><li>● Grades 3-12: Help your child check their district-assigned email each day.</li><li>● Ensure you are receiving district communications via Remind. If not, contact the campus.</li></ul>
<b>Teacher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Meet with collaborative team to plan instruction for all students.</li><li>● Utilize the district curriculum documents and follow the Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) and Scope and Sequence documents.</li><li>● Communicate with parents regularly.</li><li>● If using online learning resources (e.g., Google Classroom), upload daily/weekly instructional materials.</li><li>● Be prepared to teach daily lessons.</li></ul>

## Learning & Teaching Expectations

<b>Student</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Attend classes according to school schedule and give your best efforts in your school assignments.</li><li>● Participate in learning activities as instructed by teachers.</li><li>● Be organized in your work and in getting projects completed.</li><li>● Ask questions and communicate with your teacher.</li><li>● Be aware of what you should be learning each day.</li><li>● Become familiar with the structure of online learning resources (e.g., Google Classroom), if being used by the teacher.</li><li>● Turn in assignments on time.</li></ul>
<b>Parent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Access Parent Portal (grades 1-12) to view student grades.</li><li>● Keep open communication with PK and Kindergarten teachers for grades.</li><li>● Check in with student(s) to monitor completion of homework and assignments.</li><li>● Discuss your child's favorite part of their day and what they learned in school.</li><li>● Facilitate academic support and encouragement as a learning partner to motivate and guide your child throughout the school year.</li><li>● Maintain communication with your child's teacher by phone, email, Remind, and/or online meetings to create a learning partnership.</li><li>● Monitor and ask for evidence that your child is on track with assignments and coursework.</li></ul>
<b>Teacher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Teach students how to access learning materials through online learning resources (e.g., Google Classroom), if being used by the teacher.</li><li>● Provide instruction and facilitate learning throughout the day.</li><li>● Manage resources to provide consistency and routines for students.</li><li>● Provide clear learning goals for students.</li><li>● Follow the expectations established across the district.</li><li>● Check student assignments in a timely manner and give feedback in verbal or written form at a weekly minimum to provide next steps or necessary academic intervention/extension.</li><li>● Post all grades weekly in accordance with district grading guidelines.</li></ul>

## Support and Intervention

<b>Student</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attend intervention/tutorial sessions as established by your teacher or school.</li> </ul>
<b>Parent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allow your child to attend intervention/tutorial sessions as needed.</li> <li>● Assist in supporting your child's needs by communicating with the teacher.</li> <li>● Help your child own their learning. Provide support and encouragement and expect your children to do their part.</li> </ul>
<b>Teacher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide intervention or tutorial sessions as needed.</li> <li>● Follow student IEPs/504 accommodations in all learning environments.</li> <li>● Use data to pinpoint students' specific needs for enrichment and intervention.</li> <li>● Monitor student progress with fidelity according to recommendations.</li> <li>● Provide and communicate conference period for student/parent support.</li> <li>● Attend and participate in professional learning.</li> </ul>

## Learning Tools

Information	
<b>Device</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students in PK and Kindergarten have access to an iPad if needed. Students in Grades 1st through 12th are issued a Chromebook. Students in 5th grade and up will be able to take their device home while grades 1st through 4th will keep the device at school. Personal devices are not allowed and are not supported by the Alpine ISD Technology Department.</li> </ul>
<b>Instructional Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All teachers, grades PK-12, will have access to Google Classroom. Google Classroom will be utilized at the teacher's discretion.</li> </ul>
<b>Online Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers in PK-12 might enhance instruction through the use of online resources to engage students in high quality learning experiences.</li> <li>● Alpine ISD uses a SSO (single sign-on) website to access learning management systems, software, and other resources: <a href="#">ClassLink</a>.</li> <li>● Students will have access to online resources, textbooks, and materials through ClassLink.</li> <li>● No resources, platforms or apps requiring student fees or an associated cost to the family will be required at any time.</li> </ul>

<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communicating with teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All teachers will establish and communicate conference period times.</li> <li>○ Teachers will communicate with students and parents via Remind.</li> <li>○ Respect personal time. Contact should be limited to after 7:30 a.m. and before 5:00 p.m. as much as possible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Students in Grades 3-12 will be provided a district-managed email account.</li> <li>● All students in grades PK-12 are assigned a Google account, which allows any student to login to a Chromebook.</li> <li>● These accounts should be utilized for all communication directly between teachers and students.</li> </ul>
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<b>Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alpine ISD recognizes the need to ensure all students have reliable access to adequate technology resources in order to fully participate in academic programming. As such: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Learning devices will be provided to all students.</li> <li>○ No deposit is required.</li> <li>○ Parents are required to fill out the Alpine ISD Parent Electronic Device Contract.</li> <li>○ Students and families are expected to follow guidelines for care and use in order to ensure these public resources are effectively maintained.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Relevant notifications, instructions, procedures, policies and processes are available on the Alpine ISD website and distributed via Remind and various social media outlets.</li> <li>● Personal devices are not allowed and are not supported by the Alpine ISD Technology Department.</li> </ul>
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## Extracurricular Activities

All extracurricular practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol provided by guidance from Alpine ISD, UIL, and TEA. The most current guidelines available at:

<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info/2021-2022-uil-risk-mitigation-guidelines>

## School Events and Activities

### Guidelines for School Wide Events/Activities

- Administration and campuses will consult Alpine ISD, UIL, TEA, and CDC guidelines in regard to school-wide events and activities.
- Events will be livestreamed when possible.

## Emergencies and Drills

Alpine ISD will continue to follow our Critical Incident Response Plan and our Emergency Operations Plan for all emergencies and drills.

### Emergency Evacuation Protocols

Alpine ISD will take preventative safety actions to successfully fulfill our primary mission, which is educating students in a safe and secure environment. These preventative measures include planning, training, drilling and for a variety of emergencies.

Alpine ISD continually self-assesses our emergency management processes. Safety plans will be coordinated with our local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health department, and fire department.

Evacuation, fire, and lockdown drills will be conducted throughout the school year.

## Section 3 Plan Review

Revisions will be consistent with the most recent CDC and TEA requirements.

Revision Date: June 18, 2021

Public Comment Period: June 18, 2021 – June 29, 2021

Revision Date: December 7, 2021

Public Comment Period: December 7, 2021 - December 17, 2021

Revision Date: June 6, 2023

Public Comment Period June 6 - June 13, 2022

Revision Date: December 6, 2023

Public Comment Period: December 6, 2022 - December 19, 2022

Revision Date: May 18, 2023

Public Comment Period: May 19, 2023 - May 30, 2023

## Section 4 Plan Accessibility

Published on Alpine ISD Website – [www.alpine.esc18.net](http://www.alpine.esc18.net)

Available in print format by contacting Caroline Fox, Director of Special Programs and Curriculum by phone at 837-7700, or by email at [cfox@alpineisd.net](mailto:cfox@alpineisd.net), or in person at 704 W Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas 79830.

## Section 5 Stakeholder Planning Timeline

ESSER III Stakeholder Planning Timeline	
13-May-21	AISD Staff Survey
13-May-21	Community Survey on website
18-May-21	Student Input Meeting
26-May-21	ESSER III Parent/Community Meeting, AMS Cafeteria
27-May-21	Notice of Public Hearing for ESSER III in Alpine Avalanche
1-Jun-21	Leadership Team Planning Meeting
8-Jun-21	AISD School Board Meeting Public Hearing
10-Jun-21	Supt. Becky McCutchen newspaper article
13-Jun-21	ARP ESSER III Public Comment - on Website with Google Form
17-Jun-21	Frontier CASA, APD, Sheriff's Office, SPED Director, Tri-County Juvenile Probation email with PPT
18-Jun-21	Draft of Safe Return Plan posted to AISD website for public comment
30-Jun-21	ESSER III NOGA Awarded
30-Jun-21	Safe Return Plan posted on AISD website
	<b>Documentation of above items</b> <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15P_HiA4hQEOPluj073zAlf6AztwYKqk?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15P_HiA4hQEOPluj073zAlf6AztwYKqk?usp=sharing</a>
6-Dec-21	Stakeholder Meeting for ESSER III new entitlement amount use of funds and Safe-Return Plan revision
7-Dec-21	Revised Safe-Return Plan on AISD website for public comment
17-Dec-21	Revised Safe-Return Plan posted
2-Jan-22	Updated Safe-Return Plan
May 25, 2022	Stakeholder meeting for ESSER III Safe-Return Plan/Use of Funds Plan revision
June 6, 2022- June 13, 2022	Public Comment opened for revision by survey.
June 30, 2022	Revised Safe-Return Plan posted
August 9, 2022	Stakeholder meeting for ESSER III to update COVID protocol after TEA's new guidance.
August 22, 2022	Revised and posted
Dec. 6, 2022	Stakeholder meeting for ESSER III Safe-Return Plan/Use of Funds Plan revision
Dec. 7, 2022	Revised Safe-Return Plan posted for public comment on AISD website
Dec. 19	Newly revised Safe-Return Plan (RIPICS) posted to the website.
May 18, 2023	Stakeholder meeting for RIPICS
May 19	Posted for public comment for revision by survey. (until May 30)
June 1	Revised and posted to AISD website



## Section 6 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Use of Funds

Activities to address the unique needs of low-income students, students with disabilities (SWD), English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.

Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of the LEA, including buildings operated by the LEA. **\$35,000**

Purchasing educational technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students ... that aids in regular/substantive educational interaction between students and instructors, including low-income students and SWD, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment. **\$362,000 to \$392,000**

Providing mental health services and supports, including through implementation of evidence based full-service community schools. **\$180,000 to \$230,000**

Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning -- providing classroom instruction or online learning during summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, SWD, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, & children in foster care. **\$18,000**

Addressing learning loss among LEA students, including low-income students, SWD, English learners, racial & ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, & children in foster care -- Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students. **\$956,500 to \$966,000**

Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including ... mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. **\$100,000 to \$10,000**

## Section 7 Alpine ISD Translation Policy

As part of Title I, Part A Schoolwide Program requirements, Alpine ISD adheres to the following procedures for translation and interpretation services for families of Alpine ISD students.

The Home Language Survey is used by Alpine ISD to identify languages spoken by families within the district. Families of Alpine ISD students speak the following languages according to the original Home Language Surveys collected when a student first enrolls in a Texas public school: English, Spanish, Turkish, Mandarin, and Filipino.

### Section 1114 (b)

An eligible school operating a schoolwide program shall develop a campus improvement plan.

(4) The information contained in such a plan shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

### Section 1112 (e)(4); 1114 (b)(4); 1116 (e)(5); and 1116 (f)

Information regarding student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports, plans, policy, compact, parent meetings, and other required correspondence must be given in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

### District Level

- The Alpine ISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy are available in English and Spanish on the district website. Hard copies are available at Alpine ISD Administration Office upon request. Alpine ISD district website, [https://alpine\\_esc18.net](https://alpine_esc18.net), can be translated into various languages by selecting the *Select Language* link in the bottom right corner. Parents and Guardians can change the language on the district Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/thealpinebucks> by going to your News Feed, click *Translate Facebook* in the left menu. You may need to click *See More* first. Alpine ISD employs people who are available to help translate information for parents/guardians into Spanish.

### Campus Level

- All campuses have personnel available who can help translate or interpret as needed for parents/guardians whose first language is Spanish.
- Translation and interpretations in Spanish will be made available at any meeting, parent conferences, Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) Meetings, Assessment, Review, Dismissal (ARD) Meetings, 504 Meetings and parent/guardian school events, as needed.
- Documents and information are sent home in English and Spanish and other languages upon request.