



El Paso Leadership Academy

Back to School Safety Procedures

These are the return to campus protocols for EPLA campuses. 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, EPLA 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 to address individual needs.

On Campus Face-to-Face Instruction

Campus Screening Protocols

All EPLA faculty and staff will complete a self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms each day before entering any school facility. The district may require further screening of employees at any time based on current state and federal guidelines. Employees exhibiting symptoms will be separated from others and sent home.

Face Masks

Texas Mandate Order #36 - Under this mandate from Governor Abbot, EPLA cannot mandate face masks from our scholars and staff. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask can do so; however, in accordance with CDC it is strongly advised that all teachers, administration, staff and scholars wear a mask inside the building.

Campus Practices:

- Temperature checks
 - Upon entering the building, a temperature check will be taken.
 - If a scholar is above 100 degrees, a second temperature check will occur after 5 minutes. If it is still over 100 degrees, parents will be contacted to pick up scholars.
- Covid 19 health questions will be asked of all scholars after temperature checks
- Each classroom will have the following:
 - HALT disinfectant spray
 - Clorox wipes
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Face masks available upon request

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- Scholars and Staff will be recommended to:
 - Hand wash as necessary
 - Practice safe distancing (3ft)
 - Bring their own reusable water bottle
 - Avoid sharing

Parent/EPLA Communication:

EPLA highly encourages communication from parents about the wellbeing of their children at home. If your child is feeling sick, a good practice is to take your child to your doctor to make sure he or she is in good health. The recommendation of your doctor should be the medical priority of the well being of your child. If and when a child is feeling sick at school, EPLA front staff will call home to discuss the situation and collaborate with parents on the best solution. Those conversations may include a recommendation to pick up the child and schedule an appointment with the scholars' doctor.

Covid 19 Positive Test Result:

EPLA will continue to follow the following guideline whenever a scholar or staff member presents a positive covid 19 test result.

Any scholar or staff member of EPLA who presents a Covid 19 **positive test result** must self-quarantine for **10 calendar days** after the test result or bring in a Covid 19 negative test result. If a student has a confirmed positive Covid 19 test result, the student will be utilizing remote learning from home for the 10 days of quarantine (or negative test result). Please be aware that remote learning is no longer on modified schedule, a student is required to attend classes online according to the regular 2021-2022 Bell Schedule. Additionally, EPLA must notify our local health department within 7 days of the Covid 19 positive test result.

Morning Arrival Procedures

Students will report to their class upon arrival between 7:30 and 8:00 UNLESS they are eating breakfast. Students eating breakfast will enter the cafeteria, get their breakfast and then be seated. Students will be seated leaving a space in between to maintain social distancing. Students who arrive earlier than 7:30 will be seated in the cafeteria with a space in between to maintain social distancing.

Classroom Procedures

Classroom protocols and procedures will include expectations for not sharing school supplies to the fullest extent possible, proper distancing, limited large group work and hand washing or sanitizing upon each entrance, etc. Teachers will have access to

disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces as well as shared objects in between classes. Thorough hand washing technique will be taught.

Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of people to minimize the spread of the virus. In classrooms where students are regularly within three to six feet of one another, teachers will plan for more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.

Cafeteria Procedures

Based on building capacity and student enrollment, campus administration will determine areas that may be utilized for lunch. These areas could include the lunchroom, courtyard, the library or other large areas within the school building.

Support staff and administrators will monitor the cafeteria and hallways to promote proper distancing practices. Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines. Physical distance will be provided with an empty seat in between each student, when possible. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at entrances and exits to the cafeteria.

Other Procedures

Face Coverings

EPLA will take into consideration the guidance provided by the county and state and will follow any executive orders. Administration will notify parents of any changes. However, students and teachers may choose to wear face coverings when not required.

Transitions

Student movement will be limited to the number of people in various areas during transitions. Traffic patterns will be established to separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.

Visitors to Campus

Campus visitors will be limited. Visitors will be expected to complete the required health screening. Visitors who are screened and proceed beyond the reception area will follow specific guidelines for visitors.

Water Fountain Usage

In order to mitigate the use of water fountains, students are expected to bring their own reusable water bottle for use throughout the day and expected to take water bottles home to be cleaned on a daily basis.

Parents are asked to secure a reusable water bottle for their child to bring to school on a daily basis. Parents are asked to assist students, as needed, to clean water bottles on a daily basis.

Teachers and staff will demonstrate how students fill water bottles instead of drinking directly from the water fountains. Teachers will ensure that students take water bottles home to be cleaned each day.

Beyond the Classroom

PE

Administrators will provide training for staff on guidelines and procedures associated with outdoor play and student activity. Administrators will develop a schedule for students to access the equipment. Teachers will monitor students to ensure safety guidelines are followed. Campuses may consider limiting the number of students per recess group depending on EPLA COVID-19 Standard Response Protocol stage. Grade level schedules and consistent cohorts may be utilized.

PE equipment will be disinfected and wiped down after each use. Students should avoid touching their face at all times, but especially while playing games. Access to hand washing will be provided during PE.

Guidelines for Outdoor Play

Students may wear masks during an outdoor activity. Students should maintain proper distancing while lining up to return to class and sanitize or wash hands before re-entering.

All students and staff are expected to wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering the playground and upon exiting the playground.

Art

Appropriate distancing measures will be followed. Equipment will be sanitized after each use.

Students will use their own art supplies and avoid sharing equipment as much as possible. Workstations will be sanitized between each use. Art equipment will be sanitized after each use.

Library

Visual reminders will be added and furniture rearranged to help students maintain proper distancing while in the library. Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon entering and after visiting the library.

Extracurricular

Further guidelines for extracurriculars will be provided by coaches and sponsors.

Social/Emotional Staff & Student Needs

Social Worker

Through the use of ESSER III funds, EPLA has hired a full-time Social Worker to help support both student and employee social/emotional needs. The Social Worker works alternating weeks on both the East and Flagship campus, but is also available to meet by appointment and/or administration request. If there is an urgent/emergency need requiring the Social Worker's assistance, community/families/staff may contact the school's administration at (915) 298-3900 for the Flagship campus or (915) 298-3901 for the East campus.

Outside Referrals

EPLA has a strong connection to the El Paso Mental Health Service organizations. Our district's Social Worker assists with referrals for additional supports required beyond the school setting through an outside agency on an as needed basis.

Employee Training

All EPLA staff are provided on-going training sessions throughout the year regarding the identification of characteristics exhibited by an individual who may need social/emotional supports. Our district Social Worker provides most of the training sessions, but also brings in outside trainers to address a topic needing specific campus-wide attention/support. EPLA staff work directly with the Social Worker in identifying and supporting specific individual scholar/staff needs.

Community Drives

EPLA will continue to participate in a number of community “drives” in order to provide additional support to families in need: e.g. food drives, blanket drives, aluminum can drive, “penny wars” collection, pet food drives. In response to other needs (e.g. house fires, family illnesses, evictions), EPLA will also conduct impromptu drives that support a specific purpose/need.

Student Nutritional Needs

EPLA has partnered with a neighboring charter school to provide student breakfast and lunch meals during a hybrid or remote learning setting. When the campus is fully open, EPLA has contracted with a local catering company to provide these services on campus, ensuring ALL students are provided meals on a daily basis

In addition, EPLA will continue to participate in holiday food drives to ensure members of our local community is provided a celebratory holiday meal on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. The EPLA Student Council supports this service project on a yearly basis and obtains staff/community recommendations for EPLA families of need of this support.

Student Instructional Needs

Upon the return to Face-to-Face learning, EPLA will be providing all students with “Accelerated Learning” and/or “Intro to Leadership” classes to address any potential learning loss and renewed goal setting needs due to COVID-19 school closures. Individualized mentoring will be provided, along with small group instruction and computer assisted instruction. These supports will be part of the school day and also supported through after/before school tutorial sessions.

EPLA middle schools will utilize Mentoring Minds to assist teachers in identifying learning gaps in math and reading. The program will also be used to provide targeted interventions to address identified learning gaps.

EPLA will provide a mandatory summer enrichment program to provide accelerated learning and projected based learning opportunities.

EPLA will also continue to support students with diverse learning needs through the services of Special Education and Emergent Bilingual Learner educational aides, using both a push-in and pull-out model of instruction. Bi-annual student-led conferences will also be provided to assist student guardians with strategies to address accelerated learning support at home.