

# BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN 2023-2024

**A LIVING DOCUMENT**

**VERSION 2.0**

**Initially posted Friday, August 18, 2023**

**Last updated Thursday, September 7, 2023**



(956) 580-5200  
1200 N. Shary Rd., Mission, TX 78572

[www.sharylandisd.org](http://www.sharylandisd.org)



SISD does not discriminate on basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities.

**Trust • Communication • Collective Responsibility • Care • Pride**



### **Our Vision**

Sharyland ISD. . . Excellence is our Tradition

### **Our Mission**

Sharyland ISD's Mission is to inspire, educate and empower all students to reach their full potential and become leaders of the highest moral character.

- In educating the whole child through a culture of academic success
- All children can learn and succeed
- In providing high expectations for student achievement and quality instruction
- In innovative practices in a rigorous environment
- In embracing diversity
- In valuing parental involvement and community partnerships
- Our staff is dedicated to excellence
- A safe, supportive environment is necessary for learning

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**Sharyland ISD strives to keep our community informed in a variety of ways.  
Should you have any questions or concerns,  
please contact us at (956) 580-5200.**

# Superintendent's Message



Dear Sharyland ISD Family,

Welcome back to the BEST school year ever! We've missed our students, staff, and families dearly. As Monday approaches, we eagerly anticipate seeing everyone, especially the beautiful and excited faces of our children at the door. This school year, we will be **LEADing with INTENTION and HEART**. The 2023-2024 school year holds immense promise, growth, and opportunity for our students, families, and entire staff. Our dedicated team has been tirelessly preparing to meet not only the academic needs but also the social-emotional and mental health needs of all our students. Rest assured, the well-being, health, safety, and security of every student, staff member, and stakeholder remain my utmost priority.

I am excited to highlight some recent remarkable achievements that underscore our commitment to academic excellence. Sharyland ISD has notched impressive results in masters level performance in STAAR and EOC in 22 out of 27 indicators, exceeding both Regional and State levels, as revealed in the latest Texas Education Agency reports. Furthermore, we proudly secured a FIRST Achievement Superior Rating of A for the 20th consecutive time, a testament to our steadfast dedication to sound financial management. This summer, we also embarked on the initial phase of our strategic plan, engaging in sessions and meetings with stakeholders to shape the future of Sharyland ISD. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting journey as we move forward together.

Currently, our secondary sports programs are in full swing, and many student organizations have worked enthusiastically to prepare for the new school year and competition season. Our dedicated team of educators has diligently prepared our classrooms, facilities, vehicles, and outdoor areas to welcome our students warmly. The excitement reverberates throughout Sharyland ISD. As your child returns to school on Monday, our hope is for them to feel right at home, easing into new routines. From our halls to our playgrounds, to the fields, buses, and boardrooms, everyone is working together and contributing to a better Sharyland ISD.

## A few important reminders:

- **Bus Pickup:** Our buses start their routes promptly at 6:30 AM. For the safety of all students, it's important to remember that campus-assigned barcoded student IDs/bus passes will be required by the second week of school. You can access bus routes [HERE](#) and set up your Here Comes the Bus Account [HERE](#) to monitor your child's daily bus trips in real time. Please note that for children in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, an authorized adult must be present to receive them at the bus drop-off point. *If there is no adult present, the child will be returned to their home campus at the end of the bus route for safety reasons.*

- **Meal Application/Income Survey:** We kindly ask that you complete your child's meal application or income survey to verify meal benefit eligibility as soon as possible.
- **Hydration:** Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles; Water dispensers are available throughout our schools.
- **Tech Devices:** SISD provides all students with a technological device for instruction. Secondary students should ensure their assigned device is charged every day.
- **Identification:** Students and staff will wear IDs for safety on a daily basis
- **Drop-Off Items:** For security reasons, we will not allow drop-off items at any campus during the school day. This includes backpacks, forgotten items, lunches, food orders, or any form of delivery service. We understand that mishaps can happen, and we will work with your child to resolve them. This minor inconvenience is in place to ensure the safety of all.
- **Visitors:** Legal identification is required for campus entry screening during the school day, known as Raptor. Check with your respective campus for visitor policy as new security procedures take effect.
- **School Procedures:** Please confirm drop-off and pick-up times and procedures specific to your campus. Additionally, allocate extra time in the mornings and during dismissal due to potential delays caused by traffic and road construction.
- **Attendance:** It's important. Communicate with school/teachers about attendance and illness. Attendance matters—every day counts!
- **Report:** Report safety concerns here: [Keep Sharyland Safe](#); Report facility/maintenance concerns here: [Keep Sharyland Beautiful](#).

As your Superintendent, it's both my honor and privilege to extend my profound gratitude to our exceptional staff, students, community, and Board of Trustees. Your trust and unwavering support empower us to **LEAD** and serve this extraordinary district. Thank you for being invaluable partners in education, and for your patience as we collaborate on procedures and routines.

Our shared mission is crystal clear: to nurture high levels of learning and achievement for every student within a safe and caring environment. Challenges may arise but the unbreakable spirit of the entire Sharyland ISD Family will propel us forward, reminding us that **Excellence is Our Tradition**. I kindly urge you to maintain open and diligent communication with your campus should any concerns or issues surface. For it's only through communication that we can promptly address and resolve unspoken expectations or unattended matters. Your proactive engagement is pivotal in ensuring that the needs of our students and community are met effectively and efficiently.

Together, we will craft unforgettable memories this school year! On behalf of the SISD Board of Trustees, our entire administrative team, and myself, I extend a warm WELCOME to all Sharyland Families! Let's make this school year truly exceptional!

With heartfelt appreciation and at your continued service,

*Dr. Maria M. Vidaurri*

Dr. Maria M. Vidaurri  
Superintendent of Schools



## CAMPUS INFORMATION

### **Sharyland High School**

1216 N. Shary Road  
Mission, TX 78572  
Phone: (956) 580-5300  
Fax: (956) 580-5311

### **Sharyland Pioneer High School**

10001 N. Shary Road  
Mission, TX 78572  
Phone: (956) 271-1600  
Fax: (956) 584-3846

### **Sharyland Academic Advanced Academy**

1106 N. Shary Road, Bldg. A  
Mission, TX 78572  
Phone: (956) 584-6467  
Fax: (956) 584-6455

### **Sharyland Alternative Education Center**

1501 N. Taylor Rd.  
Mission, TX 78572  
Phone: (956) 584-6407  
Fax: (956) 213-8009

### **B.L. Gray Junior High**

4400 S. Glasscock Road  
Mission, TX 78572  
Phone: (956) 580-5333  
Fax: (956) 580-5346

### **Sharyland North Junior High**

5100 Dove Avenue  
McAllen, TX 78504  
Phone: (956) 686-1415  
Fax: (956) 668-0425

### **Lloyd & Dolly Bentsen Elementary**

2101 S. Taylor Road  
McAllen, TX 78501  
Phone: (956) 668-0426  
Fax: (956) 668-0430

### **Olivero Garza, Sr. Elementary**

7905 N. Taylor Road  
McAllen, TX 78504  
Phone: (956) 580-5353  
Fax: (956) 580-5363

### **Jessie L. Jensen Elementary**

501 N. Glasscock Blvd.  
Alton, TX 78573  
Phone: (956) 580-5252  
Fax: (956) 580-5266

### **Ruben Hinojosa Elementary**

4205 Los Indios Road  
Mission, Texas 78572  
Phone: (956) 584-4990  
Fax: (956) 584-4998

### **Romulo D. Martinez Elementary**

2571 E. 4th Street  
Mission, TX 78572  
Phone: (956) 584-4900  
Fax: (956) 584-4908

### **John H. Shary Elementary**

2300 N. Glasscock Road  
Mission, TX 78574  
Phone: (956) 580-5282  
Fax: (956) 580-5294

### **Harry Shimotsu Elementary**

3101 San Mateo  
Mission, TX 78572  
Phone: (956) 583-5643  
Fax: (956) 519-1079

### **Donna Wernecke Elementary**

4500 Dove Avenue  
McAllen, TX 78504  
Phone: (956) 928-1063  
Fax: (956) 928-0221



# SHARYLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED: 11/14/2022  
 UIL APPROVED: 12/13/22  
 REVISED: 05/22/2023

## 2023 - 2024 District Calendar

### 2023

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**First Day of School** August 21, 2023  
**Last Day of School** May 30, 2024

**INSTRUCTIONAL PERIODS**

**SEMESTER 1**  
 1st Progress Report (09/08/2023) 29  
 1st Reporting Period (09/29/2023) 28  
 2nd Progress Report (10/20/2023) 25  
 2nd Reporting Period (11/10/2023) 31  
 3rd Progress Report (12/08/2023) 33  
 3rd Reporting Period (12/22/2023) 28

**SEMESTER 2**  
 4th Progress Report (01/26/2024) 174  
 4th Reporting Period (02/22/2024) [ 23 ]  
 5th Progress Report (03/22/2024) [ 29 ]  
 5th Reporting Period (04/19/2024)  
 6th Progress Report (05/10/2024)  
 6th Reporting Period (05/30/2024)

**Total School Days** 174  
**Beginning of reporting period** [ 23 ]  
**End of reporting period** [ 29 ]

**DISTRICT HOLIDAYS**  
 Labor Day September 4  
 Columbus Day *Indigenous Peoples' Day* October 9  
 Thanksgiving Break November 20 - 24  
 Winter Break December 25 - January 5  
 Bad Weather Day February 12  
 Spring Break March 11 - 15  
 Good Friday March 29  
 Memorial Day May 27

**EARLY RELEASE DAYS** December 22  
 May 30

**STATE TESTING DAYS** December 5 - 15  
 April 9 - 30  
 May 1 - 3  
 June 18 - 21

**STUDENT HOLIDAYS**  
**DISTRICT PD DAY** / **TEACHER WORKDAYS**  
 August 10 - 17 August 18  
 October 6 January 8  
 January 9 May 31  
 February 23  
 April 1

**UIL 7 - Day Grace Period**  
 October 6 February 2  
 October 27 February 29  
 November 17 March 29  
 December 15 April 26  
 January 17 May 17

TERM	JH	ELEM
Reporting Pd 1	13,804	13,485
Reporting Pd 2	13,328	13,020
Reporting Pd 3	11,679	11,445
Reporting Pd 4	14,756	14,415
Reporting Pd 5	15,708	15,345
Reporting Pd 6	13,107	12,840
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82,382</b>	<b>80,550</b>

Elem: 7:45am - 3:30pm = 465 mins per day  
 Elem Early Dismissal (12:30pm) = 285 mins  
 JH: 8:00am - 3:56pm = 476 mins per day  
 JH Early Dismissal (12:15pm) = 255 mins

### 2024

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



# SHARYLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED: 11/14/2022  
UIL APPROVED: 12/13/22  
REVISED: 05/22/2023

## 2023 - 2024 High School Calendar

### 2023

#### JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

#### AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

#### SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

#### NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

#### DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

First Day of School August 21, 2023  
Last Day of School May 30, 2024

#### INSTRUCTIONAL PERIODS

<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	
1st Progress Report (09/08/2023)	42
2nd Progress Report (09/29/2023)	
1st Semester Grading Period (10/20/2023)	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	
1st Progress Report (11/10/2023)	40
2nd Progress Report (12/08/2023)	
2nd Semester Grading Period (12/22/2023)	
<b>SEMESTER 3</b>	
1st Progress Report (01/26/2024)	46
2nd Progress Report (02/16/2024)	
3rd Semester Grading Period (03/22/2024)	
<b>SEMESTER 4</b>	
1st Progress Report (04/12/2024)	46
2nd Progress Report (05/03/2024)	
4th Semester Grading Period (05/30/2024)	
<b>Total School Days</b>	<b>174</b>
Beginning of reporting period	[
End of reporting period	]

#### DISTRICT HOLIDAYS

Labor Day	September 4
Columbus Day <i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i>	October 9
Thanksgiving Break	November 20 - 24
Winter Break	December 25 - January 5
Bad Weather Day	February 12
Spring Break	March 11 - 15
Good Friday	March 29
Memorial Day	May 27

#### EARLY RELEASE DAYS

December 22
May 30

#### STATE TESTING DAYS

December 5 - 15
April 9 - 30
May 1 - 3
June 18 - 21

#### STUDENT HOLIDAYS

<b>DISTRICT PD DAY</b>	/	<b>TEACHER WORKDAYS</b>
August 10 - 17		August 18
October 6		January 8
January 9		May 31
February 23		
April 1		

#### UIL 7 - Day Grace Period

October 6	February 2
October 27	February 23
November 17	March 29
December 15	April 19
January 17	May 10

#### Minutes of Operation

TERM	HS
Semester 1	20,160
Semester 2	18,960
Semester 3	22,080
Semester 4	21,840
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83,040</b>

HS: 8:00am - 4:00pm = 480 mins per day  
HS Early Dismissal (12:00pm) = 240 mins

### 2024

#### JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

#### FEBRUARY

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

#### MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

#### APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

#### MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

#### JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



1200 N. Shary Rd., Mission, TX 78572 • (956) 580-5200 • www.sharylandisd.org





# SHARYLAND ISD

*Excellence is Our Tradition*



## 2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Maritza Venecia, Vice-President; Jose "Pepe" Garcia, President; Dr. Maria M. Vidaurri, Superintendent;  
Hector Rivera, Secretary; and David Keith, Assistant Secretary.  
Julio Cerda, Member; Dr. Noe Oliveira, Member; and Meagan Sullivan, Member.

# 2023-2024 CAMPUS PRINCIPAL TEAM



**Lori Ann Garza**  
Sharyland  
High School



**Ericka Julie Carranza**  
Sharyland Pioneer  
High School



**Diana Rojas**  
Sharyland Advanced  
Academic Academy



**Tizoc Silva**  
Sharyland Alternative  
Education Center



**Maria D. Chavez**  
B.L. Gray  
Junior High School



**Ivan Karr**  
Sharyland North  
Junior High School



**Claudia Garza**  
Harry Shimotsu  
Elementary



**Aracely Rios**  
Ruben Hinojosa  
Elementary



**Dayanara Montes**  
Romulo D. Martinez  
Elementary



**Marifina Gonzalez**  
John H. Shary  
Elementary



**Cecilia Boyd**  
Olivero Garza Sr.  
Elementary



**Lela Culberson**  
Donna Wernecke  
Elementary



**Jose Silva**  
Lloyd and Dolly Bentsen  
Elementary



**Nayeli Perez**  
Jessie Jensen  
Elementary

## METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Teachers and students will engage in in-person learning on campus every day of the week, fostering a dynamic and traditional educational environment. Our dedicated educators will be physically present in their classrooms, actively delivering instruction to their assigned courses.

All instruction will occur within the traditional classroom setting on campus, with safety and security measures in place. Students will follow a comprehensive daily schedule, benefiting from face-to-face interaction with their teachers across all classes.

Should any student require additional support, tutoring, or remediation, parents or students can explore the availability and schedules with their respective campuses and instructors.

Furthermore, students will continue to receive personalized instruction and related services as recommended by their support programs.

### Attendance Requirements:

- Students must attend classes from Monday to Friday:
  - Elementary: 7:45 AM - 3:30 PM
  - Junior High: 8:00 AM - 3:59 PM
  - High School: 7:55 AM - 4:00 PM
- Students are expected to be present for at least 90% of the scheduled class days.
- Official attendance will be recorded daily at 10:00 AM.
- Elementary students' attendance will be logged once daily, while secondary students' attendance will be tracked for each class as per their schedules.

***Please note that truancy laws and standards will be strictly enforced for the 2023-2024 school year.***



# TECHNOLOGY

## Student Device Policy: Empowering Digital Learning

At Sharyland ISD, we've transformed our classrooms by installing cutting-edge wireless networks, enabling a seamless 1-to-1 device initiative.

### Here's What You Need To Know

**Daily Device Requirement:** Students are expected to bring their school-issued device to campus every day. Please ensure it's fully charged with the power adaptor.

**Power Access:** Fear not, power outlets are readily available.

### Student Device Management Procedures

**Device Responsibilities:** Sharyland ISD is committed to enhancing students' educational journeys by providing every student with a technological device, free of charge. These devices are for student use, with no upfront costs. If a device suffers accidental damage, is lost, or is stolen, fret not - we'll replace it once at no cost. However, the same courtesy will not be applied to a third device. Given the costs, supply chain constraints, and microchip shortages, issuing third and subsequent devices for damage, loss, or theft is unsustainable.

**Secondary Campus Device Checkout:** For secondary students, in the event of a second device issue, you'll need to check out a device from the library daily. Check out in the morning and return it at the end of the day.

**Elementary Device Usage:** Elementary students are welcome to use devices, but these should remain in the classroom and cannot be taken home.

**We appreciate parental support in emphasizing responsible technology use.**

**Together, we can make the most of these valuable tools for student education.**

**Remember:** Bring your school-issued device fully charged to school every day.

**Charger Etiquette:** When disconnecting the charger, please do so with care. Disconnecting the charger by pulling on the cable alone is not recommended.

**Tech Resources for Learning:** Keep in mind that district technology resources are intended for instructional purposes only.



# HEALTH-RELATED SAFETY PROTOCOLS, HEALTH SERVICES & COVID-19 INFORMATION

## A Clear Path for a Safe School Year

At Sharyland Independent School District, our Back-to-School Plan is a result of extensive collaboration with both district and community stakeholders. This ongoing process ensures that our plan aligns seamlessly with guidance from respected sources such as the Center for Disease Control, Governor Abbott, The State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, Texas Health and Human Services, and Hidalgo County.

While the nature of the COVID-19 virus remains unpredictable, it's important to understand that SISD cannot guarantee the complete elimination of COVID-19 exposure risk. However, together, we can actively work to minimize this risk for the benefit of all our students, staff, and community members by adhering to the guidelines laid out in this plan.

To enhance safety, please note that campus visits will only be permitted by appointment.

## Our Safety Measures in a Nutshell

**Temperature Scanners:** All our campuses are equipped with temperature scanners.

**Daily Health Monitoring:** We encourage students and staff to monitor their health daily. We'll continue to follow the latest guidance from local, state, and federal health authorities to ensure student safety. Face masks are readily available to anyone who requests or needs one. As they've been instrumental in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community.

**Hand Washing:** Proper hand washing and sanitizing are vital. Please practice this at the following times:

- Before leaving home for school
- Upon entry
- Before eating
- Before boarding the bus at the start and end of the day
- After using the restroom
- Whenever hands are soiled

**Remember, while hand sanitizer is useful,  
it's no substitute for good old  
soap and water.**



### **Classroom Measures:**

- Air purifiers are installed in all classrooms.
- Classroom capacity is based on enrollment numbers.
- Both students and staff share the responsibility for classroom cleanliness.
- Staff have access to cleaning products and instructions for use.
- Students may be asked to assist in cleaning their desks.
- Classrooms will be disinfected daily.

**Class Transitions:** Class transitions may include staggered transitions, traditional transitions, and limited permissions for students leaving class.

**Restrooms:** We'll limit and stagger student and staff access to facilities when possible. Posters will guide proper hand-washing. Ample cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be available.

### **Clinic Expectations:**

- Students and staff will adhere to protective measures.
- Nursing staff will provide minor first aid training for teachers regarding classroom interventions.
- Health clinic restrooms will be reserved for sick students only.
- Designated areas will cater to well, sick, and isolated students and staff.
- Clinic traffic will be controlled to limit the number of students inside at any given time.
- Nurses will follow SISD Guidelines to determine when a student or staff member should be sent home.
- ***Health screenings (hearing, vision, spinal) will continue, as will required immunizations.***

**Medication Administration:** Medication doses required in the morning or on the first day should be administered at home.

**COVID-19 Information:** Parents are requested to promptly report any positive COVID-19 cases, suspected cases, or exposures to the campus nurse. Health Services Staff will inform affected individuals of their return to school/work date. We'll continue to closely follow guidance from the CDC, TEA, TDSHS, and the local Health Department.

***For comprehensive guidance, please refer to the CDC's Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs [HERE](#).***



# COVID-19 GUIDELINES

- All return-to-school dates calculated by campus nurses ONLY and provided to parents/guardians and staff.
- Only nurses or designated personnel may discuss COVID-19-related issues with the student’s parents or guardians.

<b>Exposure to COVID-19 illness</b>	<b>Known exposures outside of or in the home:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/guardians should monitor their child and staff should monitor themselves for symptoms of illness up to 10-14 days after exposure to COVID-19</li> <li>• Students/staff may continue coming to school/work UNLESS they 1) begin to feel sick and experiencing symptoms (See Feeling Sick) OR 2) are confirmed to have COVID-19 illness (See Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Illness)</li> </ul>	
<b>Feeling sick (Experiencing symptoms)</b>	<b>Known or undetermined exposure to COVID-19 illness:</b>	
<b>Fever:</b> Individuals are sent home for temperatures of 100.0F or higher per Texas Department of State Health Services and Sharyland ISD.	Already at school/work and becomes sick during school/work hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on history, symptoms, and the campus nurse’s assessment, the student/staff may be sent home and advised to seek medical attention from a Texas-licensed medical provider</li> <li>• Medical referral form may be provided to parent/guardian or staff via email or pick up</li> <li>• Return to school/work:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o With a medical clearance note from a Texas-licensed medical provider OR</li> <li>o After being fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducer to manage elevated temperatures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May also obtain COVID-19 testing (e.g. antigen, respiratory panel) from a Texas laboratory or Texas-licensed medical provider                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Negative test result= return to school/work</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Not at school/work yet and feeling sick: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student/staff should stay home if sick</li> <li>• Parent/guardian or staff should call the campus nurse to report illness</li> <li>• Medical referral form may be provided to parent/guardian or staff via email or pick up</li> <li>• Return to school/work:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o With a medical clearance note from a Texas-licensed medical provider OR</li> <li>o After being fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducer to manage elevated temperatures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• May also obtain COVID-19 testing (e.g. antigen, respiratory panel) from a Texas laboratory or Texas-licensed medical provider                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Negative test result= return to school/work</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Confirmed Positive  
COVID-19 Illness

**Note:  
If after the  
student/staff has  
ended isolation, but  
COVID-19 symptoms  
worsen or fever is  
present, restart  
isolation. Report to  
the campus nurse for  
further guidance.**

For students' attendance documentation purposes, parents/guardians must:

- Report COVID-19 illness to the campus nurse within 3 days of a positive test result or illness confirmation by a Texas-licensed medical provider by:
  - o Calling the campus nurse directly OR
  - o Completing the Student Online Illness Reporting Form (located on school's website under Quick Links) which documents date and time of reporting (if no response from campus nurse within 24-48 hours [excluding evenings, weekends, holidays], call campus nurse)

For staff:

- Report COVID-19 illness to the campus nurse and follow return to work guidance

For both students and staff:

- Provide the campus nurse with a copy of the positive test result (Texas laboratory or Texas-licensed medical provider) with student's/staff's name and date of test OR photo of positive home test with student's/staff's name and test date written on it
  - Stay home 5 full days from positive COVID-19 test date OR date symptoms began (As determined by campus nurse or verified by a Texas-licensed medical provider. Day 0 is test day or when symptoms started and Day 1 is the first full day after being tested or when symptoms started.)
  - Return to school/work on Day 6:
    - o 1) After 5 full days at home. Return to school date calculated by campus nurse (if more than 2-day difference between symptoms and positive test date, return date will be calculated by test date) OR
    - o 2) With a medical clearance note from a Texas-licensed medical provider given to the campus nurse (after 5 full days at home)
  - Student/staff:
    - o Must be fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducer to manage elevated temperatures AND
    - o Improved or improving symptoms AND
    - o Encouraged to wear a mask from Day 6 through Day 10
- Remember: Individuals with COVID-19 may continue to be contagious up to 10 days

*Disclosure: This is a living, fluid document that is used as a framework to guide decisions about exclusion and readmittance and is not all-inclusive of all factors the Office of Health Services considers for each unique case. The District's guidelines reference local county, state, and federal recommendations. The District monitors the impact and transmission of COVID-19 in the local community and surrounding areas to continually update district guidelines, so they are as restrictive or unbinding as dependent on COVID-19 illness in the schools, district, and community climate to protect the health and safety of Sharyland ISD students, staff, and community.*



## SCHOOL FACILITIES, SCHOOL SAFETY, AND SECURITY

**Designated Entry and Exit Points:** At each campus, entry and exit points are thoughtfully designated to promote social distancing and enhance safety. Water fountains, including water refilling stations, are accessible for use.

**Auxiliary Staff Vigilance:** Throughout the school day, our auxiliary staff pays special attention to common areas, including door handles, high-touch points, sinks, water fountains, printers, copiers, phones, and shared technology and equipment.

**School Hardening Efforts:** Sharyland ISD has implemented a robust Safety and Security Protocol known as "Concentric Circles of Protection," encompassing fencing, cameras, security, and access control.

**Armed Personnel:** Every campus boasts armed security or armed school resource officers.

**Law Enforcement Partnerships:** We've forged strong partnerships with local law enforcement departments in Mission, McAllen, Palmhurst, Alton, Edinburg, and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office. These collaborations facilitate effective communication, especially during crises.

**Identification Cards for Everyone:** All students, staff, and personnel must visibly display their ID cards while on campus.

**Visitors:** We welcome parents and other visitors to our district schools. To ensure safety and minimize disruptions during instructional time, visitors must first report to the main office and adhere to district policies and procedures. All visitors will be screened via the Visitor Management System by Raptor Technologies and must provide acceptable forms of identification.

**Deliveries to Campus:** For the safety of all, we no longer allow deliveries of food, clothing, money, forgotten schoolwork, backpacks, or instruments at SISD campuses. This helps regulate traffic flow and strengthens our school's safety measures.

**Required School Safety Action Steps:** TEA (Texas Education Agency) mandates safety protocols each school year. SISD conducts Door Safety Audits and will continue to perform periodic Intruder Detection Audits and Safety checks throughout the year.

**Standard Safety Protocol (SRP):** SISD adheres to the SRP to establish uniform emergency protocols for all our schools, buildings, and facilities. Faculty and staff have received training, and students will be trained once school begins.

**Emergency Safety Drills:** All campuses and facilities conduct regular emergency safety drills to practice responses to simulated emergency scenarios, involving students, staff, security, and the police department.

**Safety Drills:** We continue to adhere to state-mandated drills and safety measures at all campuses, including secure, lockdown, evacuate, hazmat shelter, severe weather shelter, and fire drill evacuation drills.

**Safety Protocols at Athletic Events:** For safety at junior high and high school athletic events, Sharyland ISD has instituted a Clear Bag Policy for all spectators and visitors.

**Remember: Safety and security are everyone's responsibility. Partner with us by reporting threats, and suspicious activity, and not spreading false information. We take all threats and reports seriously because keeping Sharyland safe is a collective effort.**

**SEE IT - SAY IT - DON'T SPREAD IT - REPORT IT**

**Report safety concerns here: [Keep Sharyland Safe](#)**

**Report facility/maintenance concerns here: [Keep Sharyland Beautiful](#)**



# *Assistant Superintendent's Notice*



Parents and Guardians,

We would like to make you aware of a new law concerning the use of vapes in schools that was passed by the 88th Texas Legislature and will be taking effect on September 1, 2023. House Bill 114 (HB 114) has been enacted to respond to the increasing concerns around e-cigarettes, vaping, marijuana, and THC-related products among our youth. House Bill 114 mandates that any student found in possession of, under the influence of, selling, gifting, or delivering these substances within a 300-foot radius of any school premises, will be immediately removed and placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP). You can access the full version of the Bill here:

## **[House Bill 114 \(HB 114\)](#)**

We want to emphasize the strict consequences that come with violating this new law. Any student, regardless of age, found in possession, use, or contact with any type of vape (e-cigarette) including whether it contains nicotine or THC, will face these repercussions. Such actions will result in mandatory placement in the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), per law. It is essential to understand the DAEP placement entails being prohibited from accessing our campuses for any reason during the duration of the placement. Additionally, students in DAEP are not allowed to participate in any UIL or extra-curricular activities, including games, practices, dances, ceremonies, concerts, or plays.

As stringent as the measures may seem, we are obliged to adhere to the law and prioritize the safety and well-being of all our students. Our commitment to providing a conducive and secure environment for learning remains our focus. We recognize the significance of preventative education, and as such, we will continue to educate all students on responsible decision-making and begin to reiterate the dangers of vaping with all age-appropriate students.

Please take a moment to discuss the implications of this new law with your children, emphasizing the importance of adhering to school policies and laws for their own welfare and for the betterment of the school community as a whole.

Also, to do our part to reduce vaping in schools, Sharyland ISD has installed vape detectors in our junior high and high school restrooms. These vape sensors will notify the administration in real time when a student vapes in one of our restrooms. It is a tool that not only alerts but assists during the investigation of a vaping incident. We will be consistently monitoring our vape sensors to assist in mitigating the negative impact of vaping in our schools. Our goal is to be proactive and help prevent the use of e-cigarettes among our students as much as possible.

Your cooperation and support in ensuring that Sharyland ISD remains a safe, healthy, and thriving educational environment for our students is deeply appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns about this new law, please do not hesitate to contact us. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students and shape a better future for them.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Montalvo', written in a cursive style.

Pamela Montalvo

Assistant Superintendent

# BUS TRANSPORTATION

We prioritize the safety and well-being of all students using our bus transportation service. From the moment students arrive at their designated bus stop to the time they board the school bus, we encourage strict adherence to safety and sanitizing protocols.

## **Bus Stop Expectations:**

- Students are encouraged to practice social distancing whenever feasible while waiting for and approaching the school bus, provided there is adequate space and safety.
- Sharing food, drinks, or personal devices is strictly prohibited.

## **Boarding Bus Procedures:**

- Students should exhibit good behavior and form a single line as they approach and board the bus.
- As an option, hand sanitizer is available near the bus stairwell.
- Mandatory Student ID: Students must scan their ID cards on and off the bus at all times.

## **Seating Arrangements:**

- To facilitate safety, older students are encouraged to sit towards the back of the bus, allowing younger students to occupy front seats when conditions permit. For instance, siblings and younger students may mix with older students, with younger students seated towards the front.

## **Bus in Motion Rules:**

- Standard Sharyland ISD bus rules apply while the bus is in motion.

## **Daily Disinfecting Protocol:**

- Between each morning and afternoon campus drop-off, our dedicated team of drivers, bus monitors, and staff will diligently spray and wipe down seats and high-touch areas with disinfecting spray.
- Bus seating areas will undergo thorough disinfection after each bus route, with special attention to high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and stairway handrails.
- Weather permitting, select bus windows and the roof hatch will be opened to enhance air circulation and ventilation, aiding in the mitigation of COVID-19 spread.



### **Weekly Deep Disinfecting Process:**

- Twice a week, we'll employ electrostatic spraying to comprehensively disinfect the bus interiors.

### **Parents/Guardians:**

- We appreciate your assistance in supervising your children at the bus stop whenever possible.
- Parents are encouraged to download the Here Comes the Bus application or visit the website [HERE](#). Full instructions can be found [HERE](#).

### **Teacher/Staff:**

- Our dedicated staff will supervise student arrival and dismissal.
- Staff members will ensure social distancing, to the extent possible, during arrival and dismissal.
- During dismissal, teachers will supervise designated pre-loading areas for students awaiting the arrival of the bus.



## CHILD NUTRITION

Sharyland ISD Child Nutrition strives to offer healthy and nutritious meals every day. We are pleased to announce participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at the following campuses starting the 2023-2024 school year: Pioneer High School, Sharyland North Jr. High, Shary Elementary, Garza Elementary, Jensen Elementary, Martinez Elementary, Bentsen Elementary, and Wernecke Elementary. Students attending these campuses are eligible to receive meals at no cost. Households do not have to complete a household application, but your child's campus will ask you to complete an Income Survey.

Students attending Sharyland High School Sharyland Advanced Academic Academy (SA3), BL Gray Jr. High, Hinojosa Elementary, and Shimotsu Elementary may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Beginning the 2023-2024 school year and through the school year 2024-2025, breakfast for reduced-price eligible students will be available at no cost. Reduced price lunch is \$.40; paid student lunch is \$3.00 for elementary schools and \$3.50 for secondary schools.

### **During the school day:**

- No meal drop off or deliveries are permitted at any campus.
- Breakfast in Class is available at participating elementary campuses.



# MORE STUDENTS CAN ENJOY A FREE SCHOOL BREAKFAST



*Now more kids in Texas can start the school day  
with a healthy school breakfast.*

*In the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, students that qualify for  
reduced price meals will receive breakfast at no cost.*

*Please contact your school to learn more and apply  
for free or reduced-price meals.*

*School breakfast is a healthy, fun way to start every day!*



Food and Nutrition Division  
Nutrition Assistance Programs



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Frankfort, TX 75741 | 1-800-5-FRUIT or 1-800-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12947 | Austin, TX 78711

Toll Free (877) TEX-AGSAS | For the Hearing Impaired: (502) 735-2939 (TDD)

This product was funded by USDA.  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Updated 08/01/2023  
www.SquareMeals.org

Squaremeals.org/reducedbreakfasts

## MÁS ESTUDIANTES PUEDEN DISFRUTAR DE UN DESAYUNO ESCOLAR GRATUITO



*Ahora más niños en Texas pueden comenzar el día escolar con un desayuno escolar saludable.*

*En los años escolares 2023-24 y 2024-25, los estudiantes que califiquen para comidas a precio reducido recibirán el desayuno sin costo.*

*Por favor, comuníquese con su escuela para obtener más información y solicitar comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido.*

*¡El desayuno escolar es una forma saludable y divertida de comenzar cada día!*



Food and Nutrition Division  
Nutrition Assistance Programs



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Frank Hillhouse | 409.665.5784 | 1506 S. 17th St. | Austin, TX 78711

Tel. Texas (512) 757-4564 | For the hearing impaired: (502) 282-2249 (TTY)

This product was funded by USDA.  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Updated 08/01/2023  
www.squaremeals.org

# COUNSELING SERVICES

## Nurturing Social and Emotional Well-Being: Supporting Our Sharyland ISD Family

*Sharyland ISD is committed to addressing the mental well-being, social and emotional needs of our students, families, and staff.*

**Compassionate Counseling:** Our dedicated school counselors are here to lend a compassionate ear and offer guidance. They will engage with parents, faculty, and staff to ensure that everyone has access to the support they need.

**A Network of Support:** For those requiring specialized assistance, a robust referral system is in place, granting access to both school-employed and community mental health professionals.

**Regular Check-Ins:** Professional school counselors will conduct regular, informal check-ins with students. They will also continue to provide individual and group sessions to offer support tailored to each student's unique needs.

**Community Resources:** To further bolster our support network, we've compiled the SISD Community Mental Health Resource Directory, readily available on the Sharyland ISD website. This directory connects you with community-based counseling services.

**Empathetic Understanding:** We understand that each person's needs are unique. Some may feel disappointment, while others found moments of joy. Some are grieving, while others are shouldering increased responsibilities at home. Some are anxious, and some are uncertain. We're here to validate these diverse emotions and experiences.

**Empowering Mindset and Behavior:** In our classrooms, we're focusing on nurturing the right mindset and behavior standards. This includes teaching valuable learning strategies, self-management skills, and social skills to help students navigate these challenging times.

**Comprehensive Guidance:** Professional school counselors will continue their vital role by delivering classroom lessons covering academic, career, and social-emotional topics.

**Sharyland ISD stands united and committed to our families, prioritizing the well-being and emotional health of our school community.**

**Visit the [Sharyland ISD Counseling Website](#) for more information.**





**Find more information in the following  
links:**

**[Student Code of Conduct](#)  
[Student/Parent Handbook](#)**

**Can't find what you are looking for, call us:  
(956) 580-5200**



**SHARYLAND**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Excellence is our Tradition**



