



# *Accelerated Intermediate Academy*

*"Challenging Minds and Building Character"*

P.O. Box 20589; Houston, Texas 77225-0589  
Telephone: (713) 283-6298 Fax: (713) 283-6190  
School Hours: Mon.-Thurs. – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday Only: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## **Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services 2021-2022**

### **Parent/Guardians:**

We are looking forward to the new school year, which will begin, **August 23, 2021**. AIA continues to follow guidelines from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Centers for Disease Control for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Preparing and leading a school start for 2021-2022 requires Accelerated Intermediate Academy faculty and staff to establish plans to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and provide the best in-person instruction for AIA students.

The AIA Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for 2021-2022 has been developed based on the Texas Education Agency and the Centers for Disease Control information as of July 17, 2021 and is subject to change as public health guidelines and further information from the Texas Education Agency is released.

Due to current public health conditions, AIA will offer **all instruction face to face in a classroom setting**. Remote instruction is not an option for students

Most importantly, AIA's Return to In-Person Instruction for 2021-2022 will require all of us to do all we can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and be flexible as we provide teaching and learning for our students.

The purpose of this plan is to provide students, families, employees, and community stakeholders with the information necessary for a safe return to in-person learning.

The plan outlines both instructional and operational protocols. Because of changing conditions, **AIA will continually monitor health conditions and review procedures and protocols, making adjustments as needed. Input will be taken from parents and community stakeholders during our Open House scheduled on September 9, 2021. All updates will be approved by the board on November 2, 2021.**

### **2021-2022: Highlights of School Year Protocols**

- Face coverings are optional, not required.
- In-person learning will be the only option available for AIA students and staff. AIA will offer temporary online learning to students that has a positive COVID -19 or has been identified as having close contact with an individual with a confirmed or presumed positive case of COVID -19
- Visitors will be allowed on campus but must check in at the office and follow procedures/protocols.
- AIA will continue to disinfect classrooms, buildings, and buses throughout the day.



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- AIA will encourage social distancing when possible.
- AIA will encourage frequent hand washing.
- AIA will provide and encourage the use of hand sanitizer
- Physical Distancing of at least three feet is encouraged indoors as space allows. Assigned seating will be required in classrooms.
- Confirmed COVID-19 cases will be reported to the required entities per TEA guidelines
- The COVID-19 vaccine will not be required for staff or students. AIA will continue to work with community partners to help ensure our community is educated and has access to testing and vaccines.

## **Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms**

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the office staff/administration will determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.
- Areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) will be cleaned as soon as is feasible.

## **Health and Safety**

All teachers, staff, and students are encouraged to perform daily self-screening for symptoms of illness before entering all buildings. If a staff member or student is ill they should stay at home.

- They should stay at home and are encouraged to seek medical advice.
- Staff are to notify their direct supervisor immediately.
- Teachers, staff, and students who are experiencing symptoms of an illness should remain at home until symptoms have improved.
- In the case of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all 3 of the following CDC criteria are met:
  - At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
  - and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - If a student becomes infected with COVID-19, they must notify their campus, stay home and quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, and attend temporary online learning established by their campus. Students will not be counted absent as long as they attend four hours of temporary online learning each day.
  - If a presumed or confirmed COVID-19 case is detected in a classroom, impacted students will be identified through the contact tracing process. Parents/caregivers of impacted students will be notified and provided with next steps related to



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quarantine and any other measures that should be taken. If quarantine is required, the student must stay home

Any staff or student that has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to be cleared by the campus principal.

## **Ventilation**

The improvement of our ventilation will be addressed with our new facility with the brand new ventilation system.

## **VACCINATIONS**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, full vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19 and its variants. As of August 2021, individuals who are 12 and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

AIA is working closely with health and education professionals to ensure students and staff have access to vaccinations. Details regarding vaccination locations, assistance, and more can be found at [HoustonEmergency.org/covid-19-vaccines](https://HoustonEmergency.org/covid-19-vaccines).

## **TEMPORARY ONLINE LEARNING**

Students who are unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition are eligible for a maximum of 20 days of Temporary Online Learning during the 2021-2022 school year.

To qualify, one of the following conditions must be met:

- Student’s temporary medical condition is documented by a licensed U.S. physician. Documentation must include a physician’s statement directing the student to remain at home or in a hospital.
- Student has a positive COVID-19 test result or is displaying symptoms of a recognized communicable disease.
- Student has been identified as having been in close contact with an individual with a confirmed or presumed positive case of COVID-19.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY FOR TEMPORARY ONLINE LEARNING**

Temporary online learning will be delivered synchronously by a teacher for four hours per day, following the standard AIA curriculum for each of the four core subject areas — English, math, science, and social studies.

Students will be assigned a temporary teacher for online learning. AIA will issue a device for any student who requests one while participating in temporary online learning.

## **Learning Loss**

Updated 9-20-21



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Accelerated Intermediate Academy is focused this year on making sure all students impacted by the pandemic are back on track academically, socially, and behaviorally. To do this, AIA is utilizing **\$1,065,115 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief federal grants** provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to address pandemic-related learning loss.

## **The grant funds will focus on the following areas:**

- Supports for reading, language arts, science and math
- Tutoring and interventions
- Special Education
- English language learners
- Student engagement, enrollment, and attendance
- Technology and digital resources
- COVID-19 safety and cleaning

## **Interventions**

AIA students will enter school with academic deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Diagnostic testing will be completed on each student. Each teacher will use the data to plan to support these students by providing intensive tutorial sessions aimed at each student's deficit area.

## **On Campus Procedures**

### **Arrival**

- Early bird arrivals are strongly discouraged. Any students dropped off before the building is open will not be allowed inside the building. Any exceptions would need to be specifically arranged with campus administration.
- Students will go straight to the classroom upon arrival.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms.

### **Visitors**

All visitors must have scheduled appointments and visitors who are preapproved to enter the building will be encouraged to wear a face-covering and social distance. (ARD meetings, 504 meetings, LPAC meetings, and parent conferences)

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

Breakfast and lunch will be provided in the classroom for students



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## **Social and Emotional Health and Learning**

For the wellbeing of all students, direct instruction and support are provided to students in the area of social emotional learning (SEL) and wellness. Classroom teachers will implement lessons to guide students as they plan, monitor, and manage their individual educational, career, personal and social development. Meeting, classroom visits, email, google classroom, and individual planning sessions will be held to get input from parents.

Our social and emotional programming is based on the understanding that supportive relationships help make learning challenging, engaging, and meaningful. We help students develop skills to manage their emotions, form positive relationships, feel empathy for others, and make responsible decisions.

This year, we are providing counselors when requested to better support students as they transition back to in-person learning.

## **Student Uniforms & Dress Code**

Students should still adhere to the dress code standards set by administration

### **Attendance & Grades**

Perfect attendance will not be recognized this year as an award category, and there are no plans for grade exemptions. All grades will count toward a student passing a course/grade. For more information about grades, see our student handbook.

## **Campus Events**

- In-person assemblies will be held in the fall.
- Meet the teacher, open house, and most parent conferences, etc. will be held on campus
- Parents will be allowed to attend class parties

## **Water Fountains**

While campus water fountains will be fully functional, they will be available as refilling stations only. Students should not drink directly from water fountains and are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to school each day

## **Recess**

- Campuses will limit the number of classes at recess. Staggered schedules can be utilized
- Students are not required to wear a face covering during recess.
- All students and staff will be encouraged to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering and exiting the building.

## **Restrooms**

Updated 9-20-21



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- Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced. **Soap and tissue will be provided in each restroom.**
- A system will be implemented to identify the number of occupants utilizing each restroom
- After a restroom break, students will be required to use hand sanitizer before re-entering the classroom.
- **Soap will be available in all restrooms.**

## **Specials**

- PE classes will be conducted outdoors whenever possible.
- PE and technology equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use.
- Campuses will have specials in the classroom or outdoors when possible.

## **CLOSURE PLANS**

AIA does not anticipate full or partial school closures. Should deteriorating COVID-19 conditions warrant the closure of a campus, classroom, or portion of a classroom, that determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by AIA Administration and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **Special Education**

AIA continues to focus on improving the services provided to students who qualify for special education services. This year, the district is focused on increasing the number of testing and interventions to improve our ability to identify students with special needs and providing additional technology and services to help address pandemic-related learning loss.