

RISD COVID-19 Update – March 17

Richardson ISD School Closure Update

To slow the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in our community, all in-person classes at Richardson ISD schools will be canceled indefinitely beginning March 23, after the conclusion of spring break. This action follows advice from the Dallas County Health and Human Services department and is in the best long-term interest of our RISD community.

We understand the significant impact this extended closure will have on our community, especially for families who depend on RISD for critical services. While RISD classrooms will be empty, work on behalf of children will continue. Here are the latest updates:

At-Home Learning

Beginning March 25, at-home learning will begin for students. March 23-24 will be used to prepare RISD teachers for the distance learning model. Student devices in grades 3-12 were sent home on March 13 in preparation for at-home learning. Parents of students in grades 3-12 who were absent before spring break and need to pick up a device will be able to do that at their child's school - call the front office starting March 23 (during normal school hours) to schedule a time. At-home learning for students in grades PK-2 will not require a student device. More information will be sent to parents and students with specifics related to at-home learning by grade level.

Parents without home access to internet can consider these free WiFi opportunities from area providers:

Charter Spectrum: <https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>

Comcast: <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>

Meal Services

RISD Child Nutrition and Transportation are finalizing plans to begin Monday-Friday meal service for RISD students starting March 23. The process will utilize many existing bus routes and stops. More information will be sent to parents toward the end of spring break.

Parents should note that both at-home learning and meal services will occur daily based on the existing RISD school year calendar and will not occur on the scheduled student holidays of April 10 and 13.

RISD Employees

The RISD Board of Trustees met in an emergency meeting on March 17, taking action to allow the district to address employee compensation. During school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all RISD employees will continue to be paid and have expected job functions as the district transitions to at-home learning. Employees can expect to hear from supervisors with details related to specific expectations.

Parents and employees can expect frequent email messages with updates, and stakeholders can visit www.risd.org/cv19 for more information.