



Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (RIPICS)

The Lawson Academy

School Years:

2021/2022

2022/2023

2023/2024

Most recent revision date: 7/20/2021

The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

The Lawson Academy (the Academy) is committed to ensuring a safe, productive, innovative and high quality educational experience for students, parents, staff and the community. COVID-19 permanently changed the landscape of education in our country. The pandemic is still evolving and changing, as are the protocols and safety measures required to continue educating the children of the Amarillo area. This RIPICS plan is fluid and will be revisited frequently (no less than every 6 months) and may be modified based on current public health needs and CDC guidance.

The Academy will hold in-person instruction at all campuses for the 2021/2022 school year. No virtual instruction will be offered. Although there are no strategies that completely eradicate the transmission of COVID-19 in communities, we are committed to keeping transmission as low as possible to safely continue having in-person instruction on all campuses in the Academy.

Table of Contents

How will The Lawson Academy maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff?	Page 3
How will The Lawson Academy ensure continuity of services?	Page 5
How will The Lawson Academy review and revise the RIPICS?	Page 6

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How will The Lawson Academy maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff?

TEA Requirements:

Texas Education Agency (TEA) significantly streamlined their [Public Health Guidance](#). The Lawson Academy revised our [Public Health Guidance](#) to closely match TEA's.

Masks:

Per Governor Abbott's May 21, 2021, [Executive Order GA-36](#), governmental entities in Texas are prohibited from requiring or mandating wearing of masks or face coverings. After June 4, 2021, no student, teacher, parent, or staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on campus. In accordance with GA-36, The Lawson Academy cannot require the wearing of a mask or face covering. However, any student, teacher, parent or staff member or visitor may wear a mask or other face covering.

Physical distancing:

Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of individuals to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The use of outdoor space will be considered when possible and appropriate for learning.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

All students, staff, and visitors will be reminded to use proper handwashing techniques or apply hand sanitizer as often as appropriate. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and common areas. Information specific to respiratory etiquette, including cough etiquette, will be available at the Academy.

- [CDC's Cough etiquette](#):
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
 - Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
 - Perform hand hygiene (i.e. hand washing or sanitizing) after having contact with respiratory secretions.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities:

Daily Campus Cleaning:

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected
- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day

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- All individuals will have access to disinfecting materials (i.e. hand sanitizer, hand soap, safe/non-harmful disinfectants)

Transportation:

The Academy will encourage students and staff to use hand sanitizer upon boarding any form of Academy transportation. Busses will be cleaned and sanitized each day.

Ventilation:

Classrooms and common spaces will have air purification systems installed and maintained.

Quarantines/Contact Tracing:

Per TEA's most recent [Public Health Guidance](#), Texas public schools are required to report any known positive COVID-19 case to TEA and to the local health authority-[Harris County Health Department](#) (HCHD).

Diagnostic testing and screening:

Every individual should self-screen for any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) before coming on to campus each day. Individuals should not be on campus if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Any individual, who suspects they may have COVID-19, may search for local COVID-19 testing options in the Houston area.

Vaccinations:

Any individual wanting information on COVID-19 vaccines may search [vaccines.gov](#), call 1-800-232-0233, or text their zip code to 438829.

Students with disabilities:

The recommended procedures described in this plan will be applied to all classroom settings, including special education settings, when possible and appropriate. Individual student needs will be addressed on a case by case basis. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies will be allowed.

Coordination with state and local health officials:

Per TEA's most recent [Public Health Guidance](#), Texas public schools are required to report any known positive COVID-19 case to TEA and to the local health authority-[Harris County Health Department](#). The Lawson Academy will report all test-confirmed positive cases to both TEA and HCHD.

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How will The Academy ensure continuity of services?

Services to address student academic needs:

In addition to the high-quality, rigorous Tier I instruction provided to all students in the Academy, we are committed to bridging the learning gap created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The campus will determine the academic needs of students. Students who are in need of significant remediation, due to the effects of COVID-19 learning loss, will be served in intensive Tier II and/or Tier III intervention. This intervention may consist of at least 30 hours of individual or small group (no more than 1:3) remediation.

Services to address student and staff social/emotional and mental health needs:

In addition to the services provided by the Academy, we are committed to increasing the availability and participation in many social/emotional and mental health needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific examples of what The Lawson Academy is doing are listed below:

- Staff Counselor to provide mental and behavioral health assistance to students in need. The core objective of this role is to provide a safe, secure and private way for students to seek help from licensed mental health professional via one-one counseling sessions.
- A contract Wraparound Specialist will provide students with individual supportive guidance and counseling and facilitating support groups to help them manage their emotions and interactions with peers; addressing issues such as grief and loss, depression, low self-esteem, anger management, anxiety, and suspected drug/alcohol use. Additional support will be available by linking students via referrals to local service agencies to meet basic needs involving food, clothing, housing, transportation, employment, rent and utility assistance, as well as referrals for crisis intervention, medical, dental, and mental health issues.
- To meet the educational needs of low-achieving students in the Academy, students with disabilities, neglected or delinquent students, and students in need of reading assistance, Panorama surveys will be used to measure and assess key areas of educational need for low-achieving students, including classroom Expectations and Rigor, Pedagogical Effectiveness, Interest in Subject, and Learning Strategies, among others. The Panorama Student Success module will allow educators to monitor and intervene on the academic, behavioral, attendance, and social-emotional needs of low-achieving students.
- Additional staff have been hired to target specific needs.

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How will the Academy review and revise the RIPICS?

In accordance with [Section 2001\(a\) of the ARP Act](#), The Lawson Academy must periodically review and revise this plan. The Academy will seek input from stakeholders at least every 6 months and revise this plan as needed. The Academy will also review CDC guidance and revise this plan, with stakeholder input, as deemed appropriate after significant changes from the current CDC guidance.

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