

June 4, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

As we approach the last week of school and celebrate our seniors' graduations, we already are planning for next school year. We are focused on addressing any learning loss due to the pandemic and providing safe and welcoming schools with dedicated teachers and staff to support all students in reaching their full potential. YES Prep remains committed to providing a high-quality, college-ready education for all students. We cannot wait to safely be together again with our students, families, and staff.

Based on the latest local health indicators showing a continuing decline and consistently low COVID-19 positivity rate as more people are vaccinated, we plan to join other public school districts in our community to resume in-person learning for all YES Prep students in the 2021 – 2022 school year. Our commitment to prioritize health and safety first remains steadfast. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines as we welcome students to reconnect with classmates, teachers, and school staff on campuses this August. In addition to the college-ready education and enrichment programs families have come to expect, we will continue to provide a variety of supports including: meals, laptops, transportation, services for students in special populations, access to tutoring, healthcare, mental health, and other student support services. More details regarding planning for next school year will be shared in upcoming family communications throughout this summer.

Thank you for reading this Family Update in its entirety for important information, updates, and reminders about commencement ceremonies, mask policy update and COVID-19 vaccine availability for ages 12 and older, summer learning activities for elementary and secondary students, Summer Meals, and more.

Important Dates Reminder

- **June 4-6** – Commencement Ceremonies
- **June 10** – Last day of school

YES Prep Graduation Ticketing and Livestream Update

We are excited to continue celebrating the Senior Class of 2021 at Commencement exercises taking place today, **Friday, June 4 through Sunday, June 6**. As previously communicated, all graduation ceremonies will only allow for limited guests for each graduate. Each graduate is allowed a ticket for two guests. Lap children do not count as a ticket towards the guest count. Seniors are receiving information about reserving tickets for their guests in their Senior Seminar course.

Family members who are not able to attend in person are able to watch the ceremonies live. Each ceremony's live stream will be broadcast on YES Prep's YouTube and Facebook Channels. Links to the YouTube and Facebook Streams can be found on the [Graduation Webpage](#).

You can set up notifications now, by going to YouTube and turn on "Reminders" to get notification of when the stream begins or go to Facebook and RSVP for your campus's Graduation Facebook Live Event. You can also participate in the conversation on social media using the hashtag #YESGrad2021.

Ceremonies are scheduled to occur at the following times. Livestreams will begin 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the ceremony.



Time	Date		
	Friday, June 4, 2021	Saturday, June 5, 2021	Sunday, June 6, 2021
9 AM	Eisenhower	Southeast	Brays Oaks
12 NOON	White Oak	North Forest	East End
3 PM	Northside	West	Southwest
6 PM	Fifth Ward	North Central	Gulfton

Updated Mask Policy for Graduation Ceremonies

For those attending graduation ceremonies in person, per Governor Abbott's recent Executive Order regarding masks, masks will not be required at the Bayou City Event Center for Graduation. However, out of an abundance of caution for the safety of students, staff and families in attendance, we continue to strongly encourage their use especially by those not fully vaccinated and welcome students and their guests to wear them at the event.

Mask Policy Updates

As a reminder, Governor Greg Abbott and the TEA will lift the mandatory mask requirement for schools after June 4. Our revised policy will be that the use of face coverings is strongly recommended but is optional in accordance with the Governor's executive order. This policy will take effect after June 4. While in the future masks will not be required on campuses in accordance with the latest state mandate, out of an abundance of caution for the safety of students, staff and their families, we continue to encourage their use.

Our health partner, Legacy Community Health, has been offering COVID-19 vaccines to eligible staff, students (note: the vast majority of our students are now eligible) and their families since March 8, 2021, and we expect many more will receive it in the coming weeks. Please see below for information regarding vaccine availability for students 12 years and older.

Vaccines are available through Legacy for ages 12 years and up!

A reminder that the Pfizer vaccine is now available at our Legacy clinics for children twelve years and older! If you are interested in registering for a vaccine appointment for your student, please click on this link: <http://bit.ly/YPSchoolVaccines>.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the [Harris County Public Health](#) website and these resources about vaccine hesitancy: [English](#) / [Spanish](#). You can also find specific information about the Pfizer vaccine in [English here](#) and in [Spanish here](#).

YES Prep Elementary Imagine Learning Summer Contest: 360 Minutes in 6 Weeks

To maintain K-2 learning momentum, YES Prep will be hosting an Elementary SPARKS Summer Imagine Learning contest with the goal of each K-2 SPARK completing a total of 360 minutes of Imagine Learning over the course of 6 weeks this summer. Please visit our [website](#) for more details about the program and to print out the Imagine Learning SPARKS usage tracker form. Students can participate online from June 21-July 30.

YES Prep Summer Reading

Elementary Summer Reading with SORA

To maintain K-2 learning momentum, our YES Prep Elementary SPARKS are able to soar into summer reading with FREE access to thousands of books in English and Spanish through their YES Prep device. We've recently launched access for all students to Sora, a digital reading app, at YES Prep! To learn more about how your YES Prep Elementary SPARKS is able to *Soar into Summer Reading with Sora!*, please [click here](#) to learn more and obtain step-by-step directions to access SORA.

Secondary Summer Reading

We are excited to announce our [summer reading recommendation list](#) for rising students in grades 6-12. These selections were made with input from the English team and are thematically linked to multiple units of study that students will learn during the 21-22 school year. In keeping with the diversity of The Atlas, texts were selected based upon their representation of BIPOC authorship and relevant, rigorous content.

We are also excited to share that our students can access these texts as well as other books and audiobooks of their choosing on the Sora app on the web or on mobile devices. Students will learn how to log into Sora the week of June 7 in classes. You can view the login how-to videos on our [YES Prep Library page](#).

Summer Meals Program

The Summer Meal Delivery Service Survey is now CLOSED! If you missed this opportunity, please note that curbside meal distribution will be available DAILY beginning June 14, between 9 - 10 a.m., Monday – Thursday.

The following YES Prep campuses will have curbside meal distribution:

Brays Oaks, East End, Fifth Ward, Southeast Secondary, Gulfton, North Central Secondary, North Forest Secondary, Northside, Northline, Southside Secondary, Southwest, West, White Oak

Application now open: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

Enrolled students (up to 21 years of age) in families that temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals for the 2020–2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible to receive Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT). P-EBT benefits can be used to buy food from any retailer that accepts the Lone Star Card.

The application for P-EBT opened June 2, 2021. Go to yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT to apply. The deadline to apply is Aug. 13, 2021.

YES Prep families are eligible, and everyone should apply! If you're currently receiving state benefits, your P-EBT is automatically loaded for you. All others must apply through the link above. If your student attends YES Prep Hobby, Northwest, Southeast Elementary or North Central elementary, your eligibility is dependent upon your lunch application completed the 2020-2021 SY. Contact ChildNutrition@yesprep.org with questions.

Did You Know?

White-Hispanic achievement gaps are smaller in public charter schools than in traditional ISDs. [Strikingly, public charter schools have reversed the gap in Science, Math, Social Studies, and Writing](#). With equity at the forefront of our model, public charter schools are helping reverse achievement gaps in Texas!

As always, we would like to thank you for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children. Thank you for your support and partnership as we continue our commitment to prioritize safety while also working tirelessly to provide the highest quality instruction for students. Our next Family Update will be next week!

Thank you