

Back to School

IT ALL BEGINS HERE



2025-26

BACK 2 SCHOOL BULLETIN

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2025-26 Back to School Bulletin

(updated July 31, 2025)

Welcome

As we begin a new school year, the Plano ISD Board of Trustees and Administration extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you. This is a time of renewed energy, fresh opportunities, and a shared commitment to the success of every student in our district.

We recognize that recent legislative changes have brought about important shifts in educational policy and practice. While these changes require thoughtful adjustments, they also present opportunities to strengthen our systems. In this document, you will find highlights of those changes along with general reminders to help ensure a strong and successful start to the school year. Please note that not all changes have been received from TEA and will be shared with parents throughout this school year.

Our dedicated staff will be working diligently, not only to implement the new legal requirements, but also to remain focused on what matters most: meeting the learning needs of every student. Our goal remains clear: to ensure that all students are learning on grade level, growing academically, and preparing for the future they choose.

We believe in the power of strong relationships, high expectations, and excellent opportunities for every learner. With your continued partnership, we are confident that this school year will be filled with meaningful learning, collaboration, and success.

Thank you for your trust and support. We look forward to a great year ahead.

— Plano ISD Board of Trustees and District Leadership

What's New This Year?

Telecommunication Devices Prohibited During School

Based on HB 1481, Texas law now **prohibits students from using any type of personal communication device during the school day while on school property**. This includes the following: cell phones; non-district issued tablets; non-district issued laptops; smartwatches; smart glasses; wireless headphones and earbuds; all other wearable telecommunication devices.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to have all personal telecommunication devices powered off and stored out of sight in their backpack or personal bag, from the time they enter the building until they leave campus at the end of the school day. This expectation applies during class time, passing periods, lunch, while in restrooms, and anywhere on campus during the instructional day.

Before the School Day Begins

- Prior to entering campus or a school building, students must power off their cell phones and secure all personal telecommunication devices in their backpacks or personal bags or pouches.
- Students should report to class on time with all devices powered off and stored out of sight in their backpack or personal bag.

During the School Day

- Personal communication devices must remain off, out of sight and stored in backpacks/bags or left at home.
- Personal telecommunication devices may not be used or visible at any time during the school day. This includes classrooms, passing periods, restrooms, at lunch or in any other common areas on campus.

After the School Day

- Students may access and use their personal communication devices once they have exited the school building and are in the school parking lot or off campus.

- Students participating in before- or after-school activities for a school-sponsored extracurricular activity may access their devices at the discretion of the activity sponsor.

Enforcement and Consequences

To ensure consistent expectations, all staff will reteach and reinforce the district's guidelines during the first week of school. Violations will be addressed as follows:

1st Offense:

- The student receives a warning.
- The staff member reteaches expectations and instructs the student to turn off all devices and store them in their backpack or bag.
- The parent/guardian is notified by phone or email.

2nd Offense:

- The device is confiscated and secured in the front office and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian.
- The parent/guardian is notified by phone or email.
- One day of In-School Suspension (ISS) will be assigned to the student.

3rd Offense:

- The device is confiscated and secured in the front office and must be retrieved by a parent or guardian.
- Three days of ISS will be assigned to the student.
- The student will be required to check in their devices each morning at the designated location and retrieve them after school for the remainder of the school year.

4th or Subsequent Offenses:

- The student may be placed at the District Alternative Education Program (DAEP).

Emergency Contact Procedures

Parents/guardians who need to contact their child during the school day must call the campus front office. Staff will ensure the message is delivered in a timely manner.

What Can Parents Do to Help?

- Discuss the new law with your child and the requirement to power off and store devices during the school day.
- Remind your child of the consequences for violating the law.
- Encourage appropriate telecommunication usage.
- Promote the importance of student focus on instruction.
- Make sure your emergency contact information is up-to-date in Skyward and that your child knows important phone numbers.
- Reach out to your campus if you have additional questions or concerns.

Secondary students are encouraged to print a hard copy of their schedule due to not having access to their phone. If students do not have a printed copy, one will be provided on the first day of school.

Changes to the Student Code of Conduct

Changes to behavior and discipline expectations resulting from the 89th legislative session have resulted in revisions to the Student Code of Conduct (SCOC). It will be important for parents to review the updated SCOC with their children. A few updates and reminders for the 2025-26 school year:

- No personal telecommunication devices (cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, headphones, tablets, any non-PISD laptops or devices) can be used during the school day
- No e-cigarettes or vapes. A student who sells, gives, or delivers an e-cigarette (or vape) to another person at school or a school, even for the first offense will receive a state mandatory placement at our discipline alternative school, Guinn SPC.

Dress Code

The Plano ISD dress code is intended to create an atmosphere where maximum teaching and learning can occur. The district believes that reasonable dress code regulations help sustain a wholesome learning environment, one that supports the social, emotional and intellectual growth of students, not only while attending district schools, but also while preparing for their future endeavors.

It is the responsibility of parents and students to comply with school rules and regulations concerning dress and grooming standards. Any form of dress or grooming that attracts undue attention, is unsafe, disrupts school, is considered gang related or detracts from the

learning process is not acceptable. The administration and faculty shall have the right to appraise any current fashion or fad and determine whether it is appropriate or inappropriate for school wear.

Details about the dress code can be found on the [Supplies/Dress Code](#) page of the district's website. Students in violation of the student dress and grooming code will be expected to change into appropriate attire (provided by the school or parent) or may be subject to other appropriate discipline when violations occur.

While not new for the 2025-2026 school year, here are some important dress code reminders from the Student Code of Conduct. The following are prohibited.

- Clothing with offensive, vulgar, lewd or indecent images or language
- Content that is demeaning, derogatory, harmful, hateful, racially insensitive or antisemitic
- Sleepwear is not to be worn at school. This includes pajamas, slippers, robes, etc.
- Sunglasses, caps, hats, raised hoods, and any other nonreligious head covering that can conceal the face from clear view are not permitted to be worn in the building.

Transportation

Plano ISD has updated our eligible routes for transportation. Through a process required by TEA to declare hazardous roadways and comply with fare busing guidelines, the administration worked during the 2024-2025 school year to inform the community. Impacted families received detailed information during the spring of last year. For specific changes in transportation services for 2025-2026, please use the following link:

[2025-2026 Transportation Plan](#)

Plano ISD Launches My Ride K-12 for Student Bus Route Information

Plano ISD is excited to announce the adoption of My Ride K-12, a new platform that makes it easier for families to access student transportation information for the 2025–2026 school year.

Starting this year, families whose students are eligible for bus service can view individual bus route details through My Ride K-12. Launching later this week, the platform provides access to route numbers, scheduled stop times and stop locations.

Bus route information is available in three convenient ways:

- My Ride K-12 website: <https://myridek12.tylerapp.com/>
- My Ride K-12 mobile app: Free to download on both iPhone and Android devices

- [Parent Instructions to download My Ride K-12 mobile app](#)
- Skyward Family Access: Under the “Transportation” tab

Expanded Ways to Connect and Engage

All-New Plano ISD Website: Now Live!

- Plano ISD has launched a [brand new website](#) to improve your access to resources and information.
- The new site is in transition, with features still being fine-tuned and some links or content possibly shifting as we continue enhancements.
- We appreciate your patience as we work to make the site as user-friendly as possible.
- Your feedback helps us improve—please use the “Feedback” button on the website to share suggestions or let us know about anything that could be better.

Let’s Talk: Unified Communication Platform

- [Let’s Talk](#) provides a single, convenient way to reach out to Plano ISD with questions, concerns, feedback or compliments.
- Please begin your communication with the staff member most directly connected to your concern, such as your child’s teacher or coach. In most cases, this personal approach ensures clear understanding and quicker assistance.
- If you need further help, use Let’s Talk to reach your campus administrator or other campus staff. This is the next step for issues that require additional support or clarification.
- If the matter still isn’t resolved, use Let’s Talk to contact district departments or other district personnel. This third step ensures your concern receives the attention of specialized staff when needed.
- Let’s Talk also serves as the official communication portal for our Board of Trustees. When appropriate, you may use Let’s Talk to share feedback or concerns with the board; however, following the recommended communication steps above typically leads to the most prompt and effective resolution.
- If a response is needed, please expect to hear from the staff member within 24 to 48 hours.

Two-Way Messaging: Talking Points & SeeSaw

- Plano ISD continues to expand options for timely, secure communication between families, students and staff, especially for activities and classroom updates.
- Talking Points is being implemented to provide a secure, district-monitored platform for two-way communication between staff, parents and students. Messages are delivered directly to SMS/text inboxes, so no app is required for families or students to receive messages.
- For elementary schools, a similar application—SeeSaw—is already available to facilitate safe, school-managed messaging between teachers and families.
- Coaches and athletic teams will continue to use SportsYou as the primary platform for team communication. SportsYou provides a secure environment for coaches, athletes and families to share updates, schedules and team posts in one place.
- These platforms support privacy, documentation and timely information sharing, meeting legal and district expectations.

Library Media Updates

Library Media Services is committed to ensuring that families are informed and involved in their student's library experience. In alignment with SB 13, new updates will enhance parental access to student library records and the library book acquisition process.

Parents will be able to view the materials that their student checks out through a [Library Guardian Account](#). Additionally, through the Library Guardian Account, parents have the option to create a prohibited list that will block their student from checking out specific titles. Instructions on creating this account are found on the [Library Materials webpage](#). Parents will continue to receive the email notification each time their student checks out material in the library. More information about libraries will be provided by each campus principal.

As part of our commitment to transparency and parent input, we are implementing a new process to align with SB 13 that allows parents to review and provide feedback on proposed additions to library collections. These proposed titles will be posted on the district website for 30 days prior to being presented for board approval.

Student Groups and Clubs

Starting with the 2025–26 school year, new state requirements from Senate Bill 12 (SB 12) will change how student clubs operate and how students can join them. *These guidelines apply to all voluntary student groups*—whether academic or interest-based—and include requirements for group approval, parental consent, and staff responsibilities.

Parent Permission: How Your Child Can Join a Club

Your permission is now required for your child to join any student club. While all clubs are already approved annually by the school, this law adds an extra step: if your child shows interest in creating or joining a club, the parent must complete a consent form before the student can join or participate. Our staff will receive training to ensure the smooth implementation of these new rules.

Clubs That Are Not Allowed

Please be aware that Senate Bill 12 specifically bans student clubs “based on sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Activities Not Affected by SB 12

These new requirements do not impact activities directly tied to a school course where participation is required, such as marching band. Since participation in these activities is often required and can lead to academic credit, they are considered part of the student’s academic schedule and do not require additional consent.

Parental Rights

SB12 outlines a variety of new requirements for school districts to keep parents informed. This is a broad bill that covers many topics, and Plano ISD will continue to update parents throughout the year as more guidance is received from TEA. Below are a few highlights to begin the school year.

Access to Instructional Plans and Resources

School districts must make instructional plans and resources available for parents. Plano ISD will continue its current practice of providing this information for parents. Instructional plans will be available on the PISD website. All teachers will provide parents/guardians with a syllabus or instructional plan for their classes at the beginning of the school year.

Parents may view instructional resources and digital tools being used in the classroom when their child(ren) are logged into Webdesk. Directions for logging into Webdesk are [available here](#).

Parent-Teacher Conference Opportunities

In alignment with Senate Bill 12, Plano ISD will continue to offer a minimum of two opportunities to hold an in-person parent-teacher conference at the elementary schools. For the 2025-2026 school year, those opportunities will also be offered for parents of secondary students.

Mental Health Service Consent

Senate Bill 12 strengthened parental rights by requiring consent and transparency for mental health services and certain curricula. Plano ISD will continue our current practice of requiring opt-in confirmation for specific consent for mental health services.

These services are voluntary and will only be provided if we have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Available Mental Health Supports

- **T-CHATT (Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine)** - In partnership with Texas Children's Hospital, this free program offers students in grades 4–12 mental health assessments, short-term therapy, and help connecting to ongoing care — all during the school day.
- **School Social Workers** - Licensed professionals who help students and families with mental health needs, connect them to community resources, and provide crisis support.
- **Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC)** - Supports students with substance use concerns through education, counseling, and healthy coping strategies.
- **Communities In Schools (selected campuses only)** - Works with students who may be struggling in school by offering mentoring, goal-setting, and help with academic, social, or behavioral challenges.
- **Campus School Counselor** - Offers ongoing individual or group counseling to support academic, social, and emotional needs such as stress, friendships, coping skills, and conflict resolution.

No mental health service will be provided without parent/guardian written permission. For more information about referring a student for support, please contact the school counselor.

Prohibition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Practices

Also a part of Senate Bill 12, Plano ISD must now prohibit any diversity, equity, or inclusion practices. In addition, no student may be addressed by names or pronouns inconsistent with the student's biological sex and no instruction, programming or clubs related to sexual orientation or gender identity will be allowed.

School Nurse/ Health Services

School nurses and the Health Services department are here to support a safe and healthy school environment for students and staff.

- Over-the-counter medication for students must be provided by the parent. The school nurse may administer this type of medication with written parent permission and only according to the label instructions, appropriate for the student's age. A doctor's order is required for an over-the-counter medication to be given for longer than 10 consecutive days or if the dose needed is different from the label instructions.
- **New for the 2025-2026 school year**, all schools will now stock epinephrine nasal spray (Neffy) for use in undiagnosed anaphylactic reactions. Students with diagnosed anaphylaxis and prescribed epinephrine should continue to provide that emergency medication from home.
- If your child is diagnosed with a concussion sustained at school (other than athletics), notify the school nurse to discuss any necessary accommodations.

The Plano ISD Code of Civility: Our Shared Commitment

Starting this school year, our district is launching The Plano ISD Code of Civility—our districtwide commitment to creating a safe, respectful and student-centered school community. Rooted in our core values, beliefs and policies, the Plano Code outlines clear expectations for how students, staff and families interact and support one another. It's more than a set of guidelines—it's a collective promise to build a culture where every individual feels valued and learning can thrive.

The Plano Code is built on four core principles, which are also connected to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), reinforcing what students learn about citizenship, responsibility, and character across grade levels:

- **Trustworthy:** Be honest, dependable and communicate with integrity.
- **Caring:** Show empathy and kindness, and help create a sense of belonging.

- **Responsible:** Take ownership of your actions and support a safe, positive environment.
- **Respectful Citizens:** Listen actively, honor others' perspectives and treat everyone with dignity.

As we fully launch The Plano Code this year, students, staff and families will see and hear more about these shared values throughout our campuses and communications. By upholding this code together, we help ensure that Plano ISD continues to be a place where excellence, caring and learning thrive—and where everyone is proud to belong.

Reminders for a Successful Year

Academic Services

Plano ISD is focused on ensuring students are reading on grade level and mastering foundational math skills by 3rd grade. Parents can support this at home by reading daily with their child and practicing number sense through games and daily conversations. For tips and resources to support learning at home, visit this [page](#) on the website.

Elementary Academics and PK-5th grade classrooms utilize the Seesaw platform to share classroom updates, student learning highlights, and important reminders. It's a great way for families to stay connected to what's happening in the classroom. Be sure to check Seesaw regularly and turn on notifications to stay informed about your child's learning journey.

Secondary Academics is committed to providing all students with rigorous, high-quality learning experiences that equip them for future success. Alongside a strong academic foundation in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, middle and high school students benefit from a variety of course offerings designed to support their individual interests, goals, and learning needs.

Skyward is the primary platform used to communicate grades and monitor academic progress. While Skyward provides valuable information, the best way to stay informed and engaged is by reaching out directly to your student's teachers with any questions or concerns. Open communication helps build strong partnerships between home and school, supporting your child's success throughout the year.

Students who demonstrate the need for additional support to master grade-level content will be scheduled in intervention/tutorial time to best meet their academic needs.

Texas Education Code requires all students in grades 3-8 who do not pass a core content STAAR test or an EOC (end of course) assessment to receive accelerated instruction before, during, or after the school day for each assessment in which the student does not meet the passing standard. Campuses and teachers will communicate specific plans.

Academic Services in Plano ISD cover a wide variety of interests. Students with specialized interests and/or specific learning needs may be served by one of the district's special programs. Although details about your child are available through campus teachers and administrators, general district information about specialized programs is available on the district's website.

Advanced Academics

Gifted Services /PACE

Parents interested in referring students for gifted services (PACE) can access online referral forms beginning August 12. Forms and more information regarding gifted services in Plano ISD are available on the [PACE](#) page of the Plano ISD website.

Advanced Coursework Withdrawals

Plano ISD encourages students to participate in rigorous coursework to prepare for postsecondary success. Honors and Advanced Placement courses are open to all students if they meet the prerequisites for the course; however, once the school year begins, students may seek to change from an advanced-level course to an on-level course by following certain guidelines. The deadline for fall semester withdrawals is September 2, 2025, and more information can be found [here](#).

Advanced Placement Exams

Students in AP courses that plan to take an AP exam will be required to submit payment for exam fees in Fall 2025. Specific dates and payment instructions will be provided to students at their home campus at the start of the school year. Students classified as economically disadvantaged based upon free/reduced lunch status will pay a reduced fee; specific exam fees will be set following the release of 2026 subsidy amounts from the Texas Education Agency.

University of Texas OnRamps

Students enrolled in OnRamps Dual Enrollment courses will be required to submit payment for OnRamps course fees that are inclusive of all materials. Information will be

provided to students and parents by their OnRamps teacher during the first week of school.

College Credit Options

Plano ISD provides several Advanced Academic pathways to earn college credit while in high school:

- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
- Dual Credit (with Collin College)
- OnRamps (with University of Texas at Austin)

Students interested in taking courses for college credit should contact their campus counselor.

PSAT and SAT

All 9th and 10th grade students will take the PSAT in early October. The PSAT is offered during the school day at no cost to students. 11th grade students may choose to take the PSAT/NMSQT, the assessment that qualifies students for National Merit scholarships, which requires a small fee. In addition to providing valuable practice for students taking the SAT, performance on PSAT may qualify students for semester exam waivers in certain courses during the spring semester.

Plano ISD participates in SAT School Day, which provides administration of the SAT in early March at no cost to students. Meeting benchmarks on Reading and Writing and Math sections of the SAT can support students in meeting post-secondary goals as well as meeting criteria for College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR).

Students are encouraged to access [practice and preparation resources](#) provided by the College Board free of charge, including full-length practice tests. Students that have previously taken the PSAT should access the [Big Future website](#) and the [Big Future School mobile app](#) to receive individualized practice.

Attendance

Your child's attendance is not only important for academic success but it is also the law. Texas requires students to be in attendance for 90% of the scheduled school days. While make-up work will be available for excused absences, nothing replaces the interaction in the classroom. When a child misses school, they miss out on connections with others and on foundational learning skills. Parents can assist by scheduling appointments outside of the school day when possible, establishing a daily routine, and setting attendance goals.

Please see the [student management page on the website](#) for the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct.

Bullying/Harassment

Plano ISD does not tolerate the use of inappropriate language, generally described as demeaning, derogatory, harmful, or hateful, directed towards an individual or group of individuals at a school or school-related event or activity. This includes but is not limited to language related to race, ethnicity, gender or gender orientation, disability and religious beliefs.

Antisemitism is defined by [Government Code section 448.001](#) as a certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Examples of antisemitism are included with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's "Working Definition of Antisemitism" adopted on May 26, 2016.

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited harassment or bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor or principal. Reports may also be submitted through the [online tip form](#) available on the Plano ISD.

In order to conduct a thorough investigation, it is critically important that reports include specific information regarding the reported allegations including, but not limited to, the name of the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s) and witnesses; dates of the alleged events; location of the alleged events; any documents or other evidence supporting the allegations; and other information the reporter feels is relevant to the complaint. Without this information, the district's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct is impaired. Plano ISD intends to fully comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations as well as Board Policies in this regard.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Plano ISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) strives to provide learning experiences in innovative and rigorous Programs of Study that prepares all students to become leaders ready to impact the global workforce in high wage, high demand career paths. These CTE courses are offered to all students in 7-12 grade. A CTE program of study is a structured sequence of courses that prepares students for college and career success in a specific industry or career field. To view CTE Programs of Study at a glance, please click [here](#).

A brand-new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center is set to open during the 2026–2027 school year. This innovative facility will house 18 career-focused programs, offering students hands-on learning experiences and real-world connections to industry leaders such as TONI&GUY, CUTX, Toyota, and more. These programs are designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for future success. For more information, students can connect with their campus counselors and begin enrolling for these courses this fall for the 2026-2027 school year.

College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR)

The state of Texas implemented criteria to measure every student's preparedness for college and career called College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR). The goal of Plano ISD is for every student to have access to high-quality pathways to college and career and to earn at least one CCMR criteria by graduation. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) defined 10 paths students may choose to meet CCMR graduation requirements.

During 9th-12th grades, each student should meet at least one of the following CCMR indicators to show college and career readiness:

- Earn a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam or a score of 4 or higher on an IB exam
- Complete dual credit classes (3 college credit hours in English or mathematics or 9 college credit hours in any other dual credit courses)
- Completing an OnRamps course and qualifying for college credit
- Meeting the [Texas Success Initiative \(TSI\) criteria](#) for both English Language Arts and Mathematics:
 - Meeting the college readiness benchmark scores in both Reading/Writing and math on ACT, SAT, or TSIA2
 - Completing College Preparatory English and/or Math classes
- Completing a Program of Study (sequence of aligned CTE courses) AND earning the Industry-Based Certification (IBC)
- Graduating with a completed Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and workforce readiness
- Graduating with an advanced diploma and participating in the Special Education Program
- Enlisting in one of the branches of the military or Texas National Guard

Get recognized! Students who meet the CCMR requirement will be recognized for this achievement during graduation with a special CCMR graduation cord. Students may also earn spring semester exam grade waivers or exemptions. Students qualify for a release period during their senior year if they are CCMR complete.

Getting Ready for College

Fall is a busy time for seniors who plan to attend college after graduation. SchoolLinks is a tool students can use to help research colleges and careers, submit transcripts and recommendation letters to colleges, and track your progress. Below are some activities that students and parents need to be aware of as they prepare for graduation and beyond:

- **Applying to College – Application Platforms Now Open!**

As of August 1, 2025,, both the Common App and ApplyTexas portals are officially open for the Class of 2026.

The **Common App** is a widely used platform that allows students to create an account, build their profile, and apply to multiple colleges and universities across the country.

ApplyTexas is the application system for Texas public universities and select private institutions. Students can now begin creating accounts and completing their applications.

Starting in August, high school counselors will meet with all seniors to walk through the college application process. These sessions will include guidance on using SchoolLinks, as well as instructions for requesting recommendation letters and transcripts.

If you have any questions, please contact your senior high school counselor.

- **Financial Aid Graduations Requirement for Seniors**

In compliance with the Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.0256, **all 12th grade students are required to complete one of the following in order to graduate:**

- Submit the Free Application for [Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- Submit the Texas Application for [State Financial Aid \(TASFA\)](#)
- Submit a signed Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form
 - [Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form](#) – English
 - [Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form](#) – Spanish

The 2026–27 FAFSA will be available to all students starting October 1, 2025. For more information, please click the links above or contact your Senior High School Counselor.

- **Student Checklists**

Our [Plano for Your Future Academic Guide](#) includes helpful checklists for each grade level to keep you on track and prepared for success after graduation.

Counseling and Social Workers

Plano ISD counselors are dedicated to caring and ready to support students and parents in preparing for a successful year. Throughout the year, counselors will provide small group, large group and individual lessons as needed to support students in responsible decision making, academic achievement and college and career readiness.

- Parents with questions or concerns may contact the school counselor or visit the [Counseling Services web page](#) for helpful information and resources.
- Students may request to see the counselor through their classroom teachers, through email or by calling the counseling office.
- Counselors will provide transition information and support each spring to students who are preparing for transition to another school level.
- Senior high school counselors are available to assist students with college applications, financial aid and completing college transition steps.

For additional support or to assist with crisis situations, counselors may refer students and families to the district's school social workers. School social workers are Licensed Mental Health professionals that use a wide-range of evidence-based strategies to create better outcomes for students (e.g., increased academic achievement, safety, attendance and social emotional-behavioral functioning). School social workers and social work interns may provide services to students in Plano ISD where permissible and consistent with local school district policy and practice and only with parent consent. For more information about school social workers, please visit the [School Social Worker web page](#).

Fine Arts and Athletics

Athletics and Fine Arts Heat Protocols & UIL Guidance

For specific measures taken in compliance with UIL and the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature protocols with UIL, please see the following documents:

- [Plano ISD Fine Arts Weather Guidelines](#)
- [2025-2026 UIL Recommended Heat Protocols and Procedures for Outside UIL Athletic and Marching Band Activities](#)

Food & Nutritional Services

Food and Nutritional Services participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs which are governed by the United States Department of Agriculture. The 89th Texas Legislature approved funding as part of the General Appropriations Act so students who qualify for reduced-price meals can eat breakfast and lunch at no charge for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years.

Families who may be eligible for meal benefits are encouraged to complete a federal meal application for free and reduced-price meals. The 2024-25 meal application will be honored for the first 30 days of the 2025-26 school year. The 2025-26 meal application is now available on the district website and through [SchoolCafe](#).

Meal payments can be made online via [SchoolCafe](#), or by cash or check during the school day at your child's campus. For more details on meal payments and to view [menus](#), please visit the Food and Nutritional Services website.

Grading

Plano ISD grading guidelines, in alignment with district Board Policy, are posted for all students and parents on the [Grading Guidelines page](#) in the Students and Families section of the district website.

Report cards will be available in [Parent Portal](#) at the end of each grading period on the following schedule:

- 1st 9 weeks: October 23, 2025
- 2nd 9 weeks (Semester 1): January 12, 2026
- 3rd 9 weeks: March 30, 2026
- 4th 9 weeks (Semester 2): May 28, 2026

Inclement Weather

Monitoring Weather

The Safety and Security Services Department monitors weather conditions that may impact the Plano ISD area. Members of the department rely on publicly available weather information sources, including internet sources, National Weather Service alerts and local media outlets. The department also stays in contact with local city emergency management departments during periods of anticipated volatile weather. All campuses

have weather alert radios and have access to internet-based weather sources. It is strongly recommended that individual campuses monitor weather conditions in their area.

School Notification

In the event of anticipated or imminent severe weather that may impact school operations, the Safety and Security Services Department will notify campuses and district leadership. The department has the ability to communicate with campuses, school buses and other facilities via a district-wide emergency radio system if necessary. In the event of a weather emergency affecting all or portions of the district, these radios will be used to provide information to campuses regarding halting dismissal of students, diverting school buses and other emergency actions. The decision to alter school schedules or to cancel school must be approved by the Superintendent or designee. The decision to stop or delay dismissal district-wide is normally approved by the Assistant Superintendent for Student Engagement & District Services, but individual campuses can stop or delay dismissal in an emergency when necessary for student safety.

Communicating Emergency Closures of Schools and Offices: The Superintendent of Schools may close schools and offices due to severe weather or emergencies (e.g., icy roads, power outages, flooding, etc.). In that case, Plano ISD announces such closings through the various communication channels mentioned above in the [Emergency Communication section](#).

Cancellation of After-School or Evening Events: The decision to cancel after-school or evening activities due to inclement weather in the forecast is ordinarily made at the campus level or by the School Leadership and Innovation Department.

Athletics

The threat of inclement weather may impact athletic events and practices throughout the course of a school year. Plano ISD follows detailed weather guidelines that will ensure the safety of student athletes, patrons and coaches. You may view the [Plano ISD Athletic Weather Guidelines](#) and [UIL Heat Policy](#) here.

Fine Arts

The threat of inclement weather may impact fine arts events, practices and competitions throughout the course of a school year. Additionally, extreme heat and cold may cause adjustments in procedures regarding practices and seasonal events to ensure the safety of students and staff. Plano ISD follows detailed weather guidelines that assure the safety of student artists, performers, patrons and program directors. You may view the [Plano ISD](#)

[Fine Arts Inclement Weather Safety Protocols and Heat Guidelines](#), as well as the [UIL Heat Policy](#) here.

Instructional Technology

[Policy CMD](#) outlines the guidelines for instructional materials care and accounting, including technology equipment and supplies. Each student or the student's parent or guardian is responsible for returning all assigned technological equipment, including but not limited to Chromebooks and chargers, in an acceptable condition. A student who fails to return their assigned device in an acceptable condition forfeits the right to technological equipment until all instructional materials and technological equipment previously issued but not returned in an acceptable condition are paid for by the student, parent, or guardian.

Safety & Security Protocols and Resources

Plano ISD is dedicated to providing a safe environment for students, staff and the community at district campuses and facilities. The district follows a comprehensive plan addressing emergency procedures: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The plan is updated by the district safety and security committee yearly.

As part of the plan, each campus will schedule and complete drills and practices throughout the school year for a variety of situations: evacuation, secure, hold, lockdown and shelter. The Safety and Security Services Department will monitor, assess and provide feedback to campuses on the drills.

Safety audits are conducted at every campus in the district to proactively ensure that every school is operationally prepared for natural and human-caused incidents. The district also partners with local law enforcement agencies.

Proactive Measures

- A “Tip Line” icon and link are available on the District website for all students to assure easy access to anonymous reporting of threats, bullying, crimes or students in crisis.
- The district has set a standard that all classroom doors are locked and closed at all times while students are on campus.
- Video cameras are in place to view entrance points, campus hallways and specific outdoor areas.

- Campus administrators emphasize the importance of building relationships with students and other staff in order to sustain a healthy campus culture. Students are encouraged to report concerns.
- Campuses are equipped with a video intercom system at the main entrance to identify visitors before allowing them into the school. The Raptor system is used for background checks of all visitors and produces a picture visitor badge for all approved volunteers and family members.
- All campus threat assessment members are trained in the School Behavior Threat Assessment techniques.
- District level security maintenance checks will be conducted on every school campus two times a year.
- The district Multi-Hazard Emergency Operation Plan (MEOP) and Campus Emergency Plans (CEP) will be updated prior to the first day of school.
- The Incident Response Plan (flowchart) will assure fast response from district personnel and allow campus staff to focus on the situation in a timely manner without a delay in communication with families.

Standard Response Protocol (SRP)

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) offers guidance and incorporates protocols into Plano ISD's school safety plan while respecting protocols from local, state and federal agencies. The SRP provides guidance for five specific actions that can be performed during an emergency event. Students and teachers will practice and be prepared to respond to the following commands:



- **Hold** – Will be used when hallways and common areas must be kept clear of people
Example: a teacher experiences a medical emergency in the hallway
- **Secure** – Safeguards students inside the building and classes continue
Example: a nearby business reports a robbery; students and staff move around but remain safely secured inside the building

- Lockdown – Will be used to secure rooms and keep students in place and silent
Example: A dangerous situation is in the school building
- Evacuate – Will be used when students must be moved to a new location
Example: a gas leak in the school building
- Shelter – Protects students and staff if a necessary hazardous situation occurs
Example: A tornado or severe thunderstorm occurs

Training for Students & Parents

All students will receive training at their campuses to respond to the SRP. Resources may include a seven-minute video (<https://iloveguys.org>) and tools that are specific to appropriate ages. Training will be held monthly and all schools will schedule drills prior to the start of school. Drills are not intended to cause fear but to prepare teachers, staff and students to respond with confidence.

SRP Parent Resources

- [Information for parents/guardians \(English\)](#)
- [Information for parents/guardians \(Spanish\)](#)

Emergency Communications

During an emergency, as much information as possible will be shared with students and staff so they can make decisions about their actions. Parents will also receive information as clearly and quickly as possible.

In the event of a school or district emergency, Plano ISD uses the following communications tools:

- The campus and/or Plano ISD website: Updates will be posted in real time on the campus and/or Plano ISD home page.
- Mass communication platform (e-mail, telephone or text messages): The district will provide updated information as needed to all parent and emergency contact telephone numbers and/or email addresses in the system.
- Social media – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X \(Twitter\)](#): Emergency messages will be posted immediately to Plano ISD's Facebook, Instagram and X pages. Follow these accounts to receive updates in your newsfeeds.
- Local news media: For districtwide emergencies, including inclement weather closures, Plano ISD will make information available to local television and radio stations and will enlist their assistance in communicating.

Reunification Information

If an emergency occurs, parents will be notified and will receive instructions on how their student will be returned to their care. Parents are urged to stay home and await instructions from the district anytime SRP-based protective measures are being utilized to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

It is important that parents realize students will **ONLY** be released to a parent, legal guardian or emergency contact provided in school records. Photo identification will be required to pick up a student.

School Resource Officers (SROs), School Marshals & Community Police

Plano ISD partners with local police departments to assign School Resource Officers to all secondary schools. SROs are licensed police officers specially trained to work in schools full time during the school year. Uniformed, licensed School Marshals are assigned to all elementary schools. Additionally, Patrol and Neighborhood Officers regularly monitor and visit elementary campuses.

- Police officers have access to all campuses and visit campuses regularly to build relationships with staff and students.
- Police command staff and dispatch have access to school video cameras for emergency events.
- All SROs are trained to serve on Behavior Threat Assessment teams for all campuses.
- Off-duty police officers are hired to provide security at events that will be heavily attended.

Protocols for Campus Visitors & Volunteers**Visitors to Campus**

- All visitors must sign in every time they enter a building and wear a visitor badge at all times while on campus.
- All visitors must sign in through the Raptor system.
- All visitors must use the main entrance upon arrival at a campus.

Identification Badge Protocol

All secondary campuses will expect staff, teachers and students to wear badges. All staff on elementary campuses will wear badges. No visitors will be allowed on a campus without a badge from the Raptor system issued at every visit.

All exterior doors will be locked and secured daily. Badges will be necessary to enter the buildings. All interior doors will be locked. Specific protocol due to a campus's blueprint and students' security needs are taken into consideration and approved by the Safety and Security Services Department.

School Calendar

Plano ISD students will begin classes on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. The last day of school will be Friday, May 22, 2026.

The first holiday for students will be Labor Day, September 1, 2025. Students will have week-long breaks for Fall Break (October 13-17, 2025), Thanksgiving (November 24-28, 2025) and Spring Break (March 16-20, 2026). In addition, students will be out of school for over two weeks for the winter break beginning December 22, 2025. School will resume with the beginning of the second semester for students on January 6, 2026. For additional student holidays and grading period information, see the [District Calendar](#) section on the Plano ISD website.

For campus starting and ending times, consult your child's campus website.

School Supplies

A list of [K-5 school supplies](#) is available on the website. Students may obtain school supply lists from the school office and/or campus websites. All students will receive information about school supplies from their teachers during the first week of school. In addition to traditional supplies, refillable water bottles are encouraged for all students.

Parents may want to take advantage of the state's [Sales Tax Holiday \(or tax-free weekend\)](#), August 8-10, 2025, during which families can make tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100).

Visiting & Volunteering

All visitors must check in through the front office and receive a visitor badge. For additional information regarding visitors, see also the [Safety & Security Protocols and Resources](#) section.

Plano ISD values the participation of volunteers and appreciates their investment of time and efforts on behalf of all students. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should visit the [Volunteering & Partnering](#) section of the Plano ISD website.