

Boerne E-Learning Option Frequently Asked Questions

1. How will the Boerne E-Learning option differ from the distance learning that occurred in the spring?

The emergency measures taken in the spring were designed to keep as many of the students engaged in the learning process as possible. For the 2020-2021 school year, engagement will remain important, but it is crucial for the future of our students that a full year of academic growth occurs regardless of setting. We still believe strongly that face-to-face learning and connection is most beneficial for the vast majority of students, but we have streamlined our process and dedicated ourselves to ensuring that the remote learning experience will be successful for those students that do not yet feel comfortable coming to school in person. It will take a very close partnership between the teacher, the parent, and the student for all to be successful.

2. Can students transfer from in-person to E-Learning or from E-Learning to in-person instruction during the year?

Yes, families will have flexibility to switch between learning models at the start of each new nine-week grading period. Requests to move from one mode of instruction will be evaluated on a case by case basis. These decisions will be based on available space, resources, and a review of the course compatibility between the two formats. If you are interested in moving from one mode of instruction to the other within the semester, please contact your child's principal.

3. What happens after I make my commitment?

If you select in-person instruction, Boerne ISD will automatically schedule your student into the course requests they made earlier in the year. If you select E-Learning, Boerne ISD will communicate the student's new schedule.

4. What course options will my child have in the Boerne E-Learning option?

Please refer to the charts above by level.

- Grades Pre-K-5: Will design online courses with the guidance and support of the BISD Teaching and Learning Department. Content will be delivered via the See Saw learning platform (PK-2nd) and Google Classroom (3rd-5th). Students will be taught by and interact regularly with a certified Boerne ISD teacher.
- Grades 6-8: If enrollment allows, middle school courses will be taught directly by a teacher via Google Classroom. Assignments and tasks on this learning management system will be aligned with BISD curriculum and pacing guides.
- Grades 9-12: If enrollment allows, high school courses will be taught directly by a teacher via Google Classroom. Assignments and tasks on this learning management system will be aligned with BISD curriculum and pacing guides.

5. Who will lead online learning?

Boerne ISD teachers will provide E-Learning instruction. Teachers will be identified once student enrollment numbers are established.

6. Will teachers be trained to instruct in the new format?

Yes. During the spring and this past summer, teachers were provided the opportunity to engage in multiple professional learning experiences provided by the district's Digital Literacy and Teaching and Learning departments. In addition, all teachers will receive training specific to E-Learning instruction if a school closure is necessary. This professional learning will continue the week of August 3rd and throughout the school year.

7. Where will E-Learning teachers be assigned to work?

Teachers will work out of an empty classroom on their home campus. If that is not possible, other district options will be explored.

8. Will students enrolled in E-Learning be assigned to a counselor?

Yes. Students enrolled in E-Learning will work with their home campus counselors.

9. What kind of technology devices are required to participate in the Boerne E-Learning option, and will BISD provide devices for students who need them?

Students will need to have access to a Google Chromebook, laptop computer, tablet or other similar device to participate in the Boerne E-Learning option. Each device will need to have a webcam and microphone for the student to engage with instruction. If the student does not have access to a device, families must meet certain qualifications and can submit a request for a device.

10. Will my child be required to participate in a full day of online learning in the Boerne E-Learning option?

Yes. BISD will complete required documentation for the Texas Education Agency to offer remote instruction. This will require remote students to be enrolled in a full course load each day of instruction. The mode of instruction will vary by grade level and subject matter. Most students will follow a regular course schedule throughout the day, like the multiple class periods offered in a face-to-face campus setting.

11. Are students in the Boerne E-Learning option expected to be logged in and sitting in front of the computer all day?

No, but there will be portions of the day when students will be expected to be logged in for live instruction. E-Learning courses will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Teachers will teach a lesson, then release students to work in small groups or independently based on the daily assignment. The teacher will remain available to support students and answer questions during this time. Students will also be provided daily expectations of the assignments to be completed that day, which, depending on teacher directive, they can then complete at their own pace.

12. How will attendance be taken if my student participates in E-Learning?

Attendance will be taken daily by the classroom teacher in one of three ways.

1. Students directly interact with their classroom teacher during “live-instruction” at a designated time during the day and the teacher confirms student engagement.
2. Students engage daily in online learning and demonstrate progress with lessons, assignments, and teacher instruction. Student/teacher interaction can be through multiple methods, including telephone or digital means.
3. Students submit assignments through the learning management system on a particular day.

Students will be counted present on days in which they engage in one of these three methods.

13. If my child returns to in-person instruction in school after time in the Boerne E-Learning option, will they have the same schedule?

The student will receive a new schedule. Students will receive the same core academic courses, (math, science, language arts, social studies), but not necessarily at the same time. There is no guarantee there will be a direct correspondence to the in-person offerings.

14. Will the Boerne E-Learning option have set instructional times or self-paced learning?

Boerne E-Learning will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. All pacing will be in alignment with the BISD Curriculum Year-At-Glance and pacing documents. Specific times will be set for direct instruction. Students are required to be ‘present’ for live instruction at times designated by the teacher and be given assignments to complete at their own pace.

15. Will the Boerne E-Learning option students be allowed to participate in on-campus extracurricular activities?

Yes. BISD is currently awaiting further guidance from TEA and UIL and will communicate this guidance when further information becomes available.

16. Will transportation be provided for Boerne E-Learning students participating in on-campus extracurricular activities (if allowed)?

No.

17. Will the Boerne E-Learning Option be structured like a campus-based schedule with remote attendance requirements and lunch periods?

Please refer to samples on pages above.

18. Will students be graded with pass/fail results in both online and in-person environments?

No. Per the Texas Education Agency's guidance on grading, grading policies for remote learning must mirror on-campus grading expectations that were in place pre-COVID. All students will be graded according to Boerne ISD's grading policy, and courses for high school credit will be factored into student GPA and class rank.

19. Will teachers in the Boerne E-Learning Option be available live during school hours? How will they interact with students?

Yes. Teachers will be available live during school hours at designated times. They will provide direct instruction and be available to answer student questions via videoconference. Teachers will host weekly office hours via videoconference and will provide feedback weekly to students on their progress in the course.

20. Can my family delay completing the commitment form until the district provides additional information to families?

The online learning model, also called the Boerne E-Learning Option, is an opt-in program. District personnel will make every effort to contact families prior to the start of school to record their choice. Students for whom a commitment has not been made by July 28th will be automatically enrolled in in-person learning and scheduled accordingly.