

May 28, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well leading into the Memorial Day weekend. First, in observance of the holiday, we remember and honor the service members who valiantly gave their lives for this country. Thank you.

It's hard to believe that we are less than two weeks away from the last day of school. While it's been yet another challenging and unprecedented year, it has also been an *extraordinary* one. We are amazed and grateful for all that you are doing to support the success of your children during this time. YES Prep remains committed to maximizing the experience for students and families in these last days of the school year and through the summer. We cannot wait to safely be together again with our students, families, and staff.

We have quite a few updates and reminders for you in this communication so thank you for reading this Family Update in its entirety for information, updates, and reminders about Senior Signing Day highlights, upcoming commencement ceremonies, mask policy update and COVID-19 vaccine availability for ages 12 and older, Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), the ARP ESSER III grant, Family-School Relationships survey results, Summer Meals Delivery Service and more.

### Important Dates Reminder

- **May 31** – Memorial Day (Student/staff holiday)
- **June 4-6** – Commencement Ceremonies
- **June 10** – Last day of school

### Senior Signing Day Highlights

Rain showers could not wash out the excitement of Senior Signing Day (SSD) this past Sunday, May 23 at Rice Stadium! We celebrated 1,456 seniors in the Class of 2021, of whom over 90% are first-generation college-bound. The Class of 2021 submitted 13,171 applications and earned 6,794 acceptances! They earned millions and millions of dollars in scholarships, and 15 received the prestigious DREAM U.S. Scholarship. Some of the seniors have chosen to serve our country in the armed forces (and we're deeply grateful for the path of service they have chosen) and others have chosen to pursue a course other than college. Regardless of their path, they will always be part of the YES Prep family, and we'll always be proud of them. When the Class of 2021 goes to college this fall, there will be close to 9,000 YES Prep alumni who have earned or are actively pursuing their college degrees.

YES Prep seniors, Class of 2021, we were proud to celebrate your post-high school plans. Not only are you about two weeks away from graduating, but you will do so during an incredibly challenging year. We know that some of you have been looking forward to your senior year for as long as you can remember. Your families, friends and teachers have been rooting for you along the way, and this year especially we have never believed in you more and are endlessly impressed by the accomplishments of the Class of 2021 amidst the pandemic. You are EXTRAORDINARY!

For a detailed recap of this year's Senior Signing Day event and student spotlights, please visit our [blog](#).

### YES Prep Graduation Ticketing and Livestream Update

With Senior Signing Day this past weekend, like many of you we are now looking forward to Graduation **on June 4-6, 2021**. 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 Executive Order last week 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 Update**

As a reminder, the Governor and the TEA will lift the mandatory mask requirement for schools after June 4. YES Prep is bound by this order and faces penalties if we are out of compliance. Our revised policy will be that the use of face coverings is strongly recommended but is optional in accordance with Executive Order GA-36 as issued by the Governor of Texas. This policy will come into effect after June 4 and will be revised as needed on July 2. 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!**

We are thrilled to announce 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](#).

## 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 will open June 2, 2021. Go to [yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT](https://yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT) to apply. The application link is case-sensitive. The deadline to apply is Aug. 13, 2021.

### Who Needs to Apply?

- A parent/guardian must apply if eligible child is:
  - Enrolled in K-12 and NOT part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between August 2020 and June 2021.
  - Born on or before Aug. 1, 2014 and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for the first time during the 2020–2021 school year in May or June 2021.
- A parent/guardian DOES NOT have to apply if eligible child is:
  - Born on or before Aug. 1, 2014 and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between August 2020 and April 2021.
  - Born after Aug. 1, 2014 and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between October 2020 and June 2021.

For more information about eligibility, applying and getting your P-EBT benefits, visit [hhs.texas.gov/pebt](https://hhs.texas.gov/pebt), or call the P-EBT Call Center at 833-442-1255, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Central time.

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III)

As a reminder, YES Prep Public Schools is eligible for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III). The ARP ESSER III grant will be used to address learning loss, underserved students, identify and provided homeless children and youth with services, and support additional public education needs. For more info visit our [ESSER III grant webpage](#).

As a valued member of the YES Prep community, we are seeking your input on the proposed plan for the use of the approximately \$49 million in ARP ESSER III funds. It is our desire to build a plan that is responsive to the needs of students, families, and educators.

We welcome your input and feedback via [this form](#) no later than May 31, 2021, to be reviewed for possible inclusion into our proposed plan for ARP ESSER III. Thank you!

## Family-School Relationships Survey Action Planning

Our first annual Family-School Relationships Survey results are in from the Panorama Education Team! We scored at the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in the 3 categories where there is national comparison data: Barriers to Engagement, School Climate, and School Fit. We will leverage those strengths as we work to address areas of focus that were identified. Thank you again for taking the time to share your insights with us as your perspective as families and true partners in this work is invaluable!

In terms of your **campus family survey results**, the Family Engagement Ambassadors (staff) and Family Fellows (parents) will be conducting a data dive and proposing a plan of action to campus Principals. Stay tuned to your Family Engagement Team for more details as we plan for a strong start to the 2021-2022 school year!



## Summer Meals Delivery Service - Survey Requesting Service Closes June 4

If you are interested in receiving FREE breakfast & lunch meals for your children this summer, June 14 – August 13, PLEASE sign up below. Meals are available to all children 18 years of age and younger and delivered directly to your home. Our current delivery structure will end June 11, 2021. PLEASE sign up today if you're interested in the continuation of home delivery services. Each meal box (per child) will have 7 breakfast meals and 7 lunch meals in it, plus 1 gallon of milk. Sign up using the link below! Reach out to ChildNutrition@yesprep.org with questions.

[Here is the link to the Summer Feeding 2021 Survey](#)

### Did You Know?

In every subject, Texas public charters have smaller achievement gaps between white students and their peers of color, especially Black students. [This is true even when comparing all public charters with only A and B-graded ISD campuses.](#) 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. A reminder that YES Prep schools and offices will be closed Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day. Our next Family Update will be on **Friday, June 4.**

Thank you