



"THE DISTRICT"

Donna Independent School District

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September 25, 2020

Dear Donna ISD Parents and Community,

We hope that you are staying safe and doing well as we continue to deal with this pandemic.

First and foremost, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your overwhelming support and patience as we tackle this new school year. With your help, our students have been able to adjust quite well to this new normal of learning from home. Our teachers and staff have also been doing a fabulous job providing our children with first-rate instruction.

As you may know, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) granted school districts four weeks of online learning from the start of the school year (which takes us through October 5, 2020). However, with COVID-19 remaining a concern here in the Rio Grande Valley, TEA gave districts the opportunity to submit a waiver allowing us to extend our online learning an additional four weeks. After much consideration and the support of our Board of Trustees, we are requesting a waiver along with several other districts. The extension will allow our Donna ISD children to continue virtual learning from home through November 3, 2020. This decision was made to ensure the safety and well-being of our Donna ISD community.

In order to comply with the TEA waiver, we are required to provide onsite instruction for a limited number of students every day as we begin the process of safely transitioning back to face-to-face learning. So, beginning October 5th, we will allow a small, select group of students back to our campuses. Students who have little or no internet service at home will be priority. We are identifying those students via survey, as we speak. It is important to note that this is not a mandate. Parents of eligible students will have the option of having their child learn on-campus or continue with remote learning. In fact, parents can opt for distance learning instruction for the entire year if they choose to do so. Regardless of what decision parents choose, we are committed to providing the high-quality instruction you have come to expect from our teachers.

For parents who select on-campus learning beginning October 5th, please know that we are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for school health and safety. Our plan includes requiring personal protective equipment for all students and staff, hand sanitizer, temperature checks, physical distancing, deep cleaning of all buildings, and a limited number of visitors. For details, you can visit our Learn and Lead Safely Plan found in this link.

<https://www.donnaisd.net/Page/433>

As the additional four weeks come to an end on November 3rd, we will be communicating with you regarding our next steps. Any decision we make, will be made following guidance from TEA as well as the CDC, state and local health agencies.

For now, please stay safe and thank you once again for all that you do in support of our children. Remember, we will get through this and we will come out stronger together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hafedh Azaiez
Superintendent of Schools

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