



Donna Independent School District

Distance Learning Plan

Guidance for Families and the Community

INTRODUCTION

The health and safety of all Donna ISD students, families, and district employees is of utmost importance. As we stay home and stay healthy, we want to ensure that learning continues. For this reason, we have developed a Distance Learning Plan that outlines the streamlined communication, roles and responsibilities of our learning community, instructional resources, access, activities and recommended daily schedules, support for special populations, and technology access and support.

COMMUNICATION

Communication about at-home activities and access to resources for students is available on the Donna ISD website at <http://www.donnaisd.net/Academic-Instruction>. Updates are also shared via each campus website, as well as at our Donna ISD social media platforms. Other than online communication, students and families may also call their home campus or continue communication with teachers via email, Edmodo, Class Dojo, and other district-approved platforms. Campuses will also communicate hours during which teachers can be contacted.

CONTACT INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

If you need assistance, please call the district office at (956) 464 – 1600 and use the following extensions to reach your home campus call center. These centers are available Monday to Friday from 9 am – 1pm, concerns/questions will be addressed within 24 hours.

- EXT: 1127 High Schools: Donna High School, DAEP, 3D Academy, Donna North High School
- EXT: 1133 Middle Schools: AP Solis, Veterans, Saucedo, Todd
- EXT: 1144 Elementary Schools: Guzman, Price, Ochoa, Runn, Stainke, Caceres, Rivas
- EXT: 1140 Elementary Schools: Salinas, Garza, Munoz, Le Noir, Singleterry, Salazar, Adame

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Instructional resources for most core content areas will be based on state adopted consumable textbook resources that were sent home with students prior to Spring Break. The district has developed an at-home learning plan for parents that references pages from these books. At-home distance learning plans have been developed in two-week cycles and will continue to be developed should the district continue with its shutdown. These documents are linked at <http://www.donnaisd.net/Academic-Instruction>. In the event that a campus did not send home the designated resources, campus administrators and teachers should make every effort to provide access, either in print or digital.

RESOURCE ACCESS

We know that many students and families may not have access to internet at home, or have the use of a computer, laptop, or other device to complete digital learning. For that reason, the majority of assigned activities will come from paper-based resources provided by the campus personnel. If you do not have those resources, please contact your campus or teacher for assistance in accessing textbook resources.

SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS (Special Needs, English Learners, Migrant, Gifted & Talented)

Each department that supports special populations is committed to providing for students' varied needs, as per federal and state guidelines. Each department is providing support through differentiating district home-based learning activities or by communicating with families to provide assistance to students with special needs as they learn from home.



DONNA ISD Distance Learning Plan - Spring 2020

Website: www.donnaisd.net

Twitter: @donna_isd

Facebook: @donnaisd

Student Roles and Responsibilities

- Establish daily routines for engaging in the learning experiences.
- If possible, identify a space in your home where you can work effectively and successfully.
- Regularly monitor online platforms.
- Engage in all learning with academic honesty.
- Complete assignments in a timely manner.
- Communicate proactively with your teachers if you cannot meet deadlines or require support.
- Comply with Donna ISD Acceptable Use Board Policy and Donna ISD Student Code of Conduct.

For questions about—

Contact

a course, assignment, or resource

the relevant teacher

a personal, academic or social-emotional concern

your assigned counselor

other issues related to distance learning

your school principal or assistant principal

Parent Roles and Responsibilities

Provide support for your children by:

- Establishing routines and expectations.
- Defining the physical space for your child to study.
- Monitoring communications from your child's teachers.
- Beginning and ending each day with a check-in.
- Taking an active role in helping your child process his/her learning.
- Monitoring that assignments are completed and submitted in a timely manner.
- Establishing times for quiet and reflection.
- Encouraging physical activity and/or exercise.
- Remaining mindful of your child's stress or worry.
- Monitoring how much time your child is spending online.
- Keeping your child social, but set guidelines around their social media interactions
- Pick up breakfast and lunch at designated feeding sites between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If student is not present, some form of identification will be required, such as a school ID, report card, birth certificate, etc.

For questions about...

Contact

a course, assignment, or resource

the relevant teacher

a personal, academic or social-emotional concern

your child's assigned counselor

special education and support

your child's special education case manager

other issues related to distance learning

your school principal or assistant principal





Elementary Schools: Prekindergarten

Priorities:

- Learning will mainly focus around literacy and numeracy to maintain current skills and build knowledge around prioritized content found in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Prekindergarten Guidelines.
- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will be parent provided email addresses and through Edmodo or Class Dojo. Teachers may also communicate with parents using other district-approved platforms.
- Teachers may provide learning videos that have been recorded and made available to students to watch at any time.

Approximate Time Frame for Learning

Prekindergarten	
20 minutes per day	Emergent Literacy Activities, Games and Challenges focused on language development, vocabulary, comprehension, and phonological awareness
20 minutes per day	Emergent Numeracy Activities, Games, and Challenges focused on counting, sorting, and patterning
20 minutes per day (2 or 3 times per week)	www.clever.com/in/donnaisd Istation program (download app) and Imagine Math online program are our district recommended programs <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">   </div>
Flex Learning	Reading aloud Board games Puzzles Designing and building structures with blocks or other available materials Physical activity

Total Distance Learning Time: approximately 1.5 hours per day





Elementary Schools: Kinder through 5th Grade



Priorities

- Learning will be mainly focused around literacy and numeracy to maintain current skills and build knowledge around prioritized content found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).
- Science and Social Studies will also have learning opportunities focused on prioritized content from the TEKS where appropriate.
- Students will have both online and off-line learning activities.
- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will be Edmodo, Class Dojo, Google Classroom, and Zoom, as well as student and parent provided email addresses. Teachers may also communicate with parents using other district-approved platforms.
- Teachers may provide learning videos that have been recorded and made available to students to watch at any time.

Approximate Time Frame for Learning

Kinder, 1 st , and 2 nd Grade	
20-25 minutes per day	Reading
20-25 minutes per day	Writing
20-25 minutes per day	Mathematics
15-20 minutes per day	Science/Social Studies
20-25 minutes per day	Art, Music, and PE teachers may provide a range of activities that continue to support the current program
30 minutes per day (if available)	www.clever.com/in/donnaisd Istation program (download app) and Imagine Math online program are our district recommended programs
	 
Enrichment/ Flex Learning	Reading aloud and independent reading Puzzles, board games and challenges with math/strategy/critical thinking Designing and building structures with blocks or other available materials

Total Distance Learning Time: approximately 2 hours per day

3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th Grade	
25-30 minutes per day	Reading
25-30 minutes per day	Writing
25-30 minutes per day	Mathematics
15-20 minutes per day	Science/Social Studies
20-30 minutes per day	Art, Music, and PE teachers may provide a range of activities that continue to support the current program
30 minutes per day (if available)	www.clever.com/in/donnaisd Istation program (download app) and Imagine Math online program are our district recommended programs
	 
Enrichment/ Flex Learning	Reading aloud and independent reading Puzzles, board games and challenges with math/strategy/critical thinking Designing and building structures with blocks or other available materials

Total Distance Learning Time: approximately 2.5 hours per day





Middle School: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades

Priorities

- Learning will be mainly focused around prioritized content found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS)
- Students will have both online and off-line learning activities.
- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will be parent email addresses, student email address, Edmodo, Google Classroom, and Zoom. Teachers may also communicate with parents using other district-approved platforms.
- Teachers may provide learning videos that have been recorded and made available to students to watch at any time.

Approximate Time Frame for Learning

6 th , 7 th , and 8 th Grade	
45 minutes per day	Reading/English
45 minutes per day	Mathematics
45 minutes per day	Science
45 minutes per day	Social Studies
30 minutes per day	Art, Music, PE, and Technology teachers may provide a range of activities that continue to support the current program
20-30 minutes per day	www.clever.com/in/donnaisd Istation program (download app) and Imagine Math online program are our district recommended programs  
Flex Learning	Independent reading Creating models, videos, and other projects based on concepts learned in class

Total Distance Learning Time: approximately 3-4 hours per day




High School: 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grade

Priorities

- Learning will be mainly focused around prioritized content found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the English Language Proficiency Standards.
- Students will have both online and off-line learning activities.
- The primary tools for communication between teachers and families will be Google Classroom, Zoom, Edmodo, student email addresses, and parent provided email addresses.
- Teachers may provide learning videos that have been recorded and made available to students to watch at any time.

Approximate Time Frame for Learning

9 th , 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th Grade	
30-35 minutes per day	Each scheduled high school course
20-30 minutes per day	www.clever.com/in/donnaisd Imagine Math (pathways for Algebra I, Geometry, ACT and SAT pathways, if desired) 
STC, OnRamps, other certification coursework	Students enrolled in courses with potential college credit and/or programs leading to state or national certifications may require additional time beyond the 3 - 4 hours per day; work may be online

Total Distance Learning Time: approximately 3-4 hours per day



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Donna ISD Special Education Department is committed to prioritizing the health and safety of students, staff, and community. Our department acknowledges the need to make reasonable efforts to fully implement a student's IEP to the maximum extent possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communication:

Regular Working Hours:

All special education service providers are available during regular working hours.

Parent Communication:

Special Education service providers will provide proactive and ongoing communication with parents and families of students with disabilities. Special education service providers will identify communication channels to and from parents and families and ensure there are real-time opportunities for questions and concerns to be responded to and needs addressed.

Communication Among Service Providers:

All special education service providers serving the same student (ex. a special education teacher, general education teacher, and speech language pathologist) are expected to coordinate with one another to ensure there is clear communication in the implementation of services and progress monitoring of the student.

Mode of Communication:

Contact can be made through email, Zoom, Google Voice, Jabber, Class Dojo, Edmodo, Google Classroom or other mode of communication. Instructions on how to create a Zoom account were emailed to all teachers.

Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.):

All efforts will be made to fully implement a student's I.E.P.

Temporary Changes to Services:

Special Education service providers will inform parents of any temporary changes to services due to current events and proceed with reasonable efforts in providing FAPE. A review of services and student progress will be reviewed upon return to school to determine if compensatory services are owed to the student.

Evaluations/Referrals:

There will be no face-to-face student interaction-including conducting face-to-face assessments. All assessment personnel will communicate their evaluation status to the campus administrator.

Students in the process of being evaluated need to continue with RTI/504/ or any other current campus intervention to assist the student.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Diana Villanueva (Special Education Director) at dvillanueva@donnaisd.net



SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Donna ISD Bilingual/ESL Education Department is committed to ensure that our students' needs are met. We are ready to provide, support, supplement, and/or collaborate with any Donna ISD stakeholder necessary in order to continue with the following services:

- District direction on identification, placement, English Learner (EL) services, review & reclassification, and monitoring & evaluation of our identified EL students and program models, as it pertains to state and federal mandates.
- Recommendations in order to meet the linguistic needs of our students as it pertains to mastering state standards, academic and English language standards.
- Management of State and Federal Bilingual/ESL Funds to supplement instructional and language opportunities for identified EL students.
- Management of State and Federal Bilingual/ESL Funds to provide staff development opportunities for parents and teachers of students participating in the Bilingual/ESL Program.
- Collaborate with Bilingual/ESL teachers and Curriculum & Instruction Departments in order to maximize the amount of instructional time for EL students, as it pertains linguistic accommodations.
- Answer any instructional, funding, and/or program model questions that any DISD stakeholder might have.

Should you need further assistance please contact G. Arellano (Bilingual director) via email at garellano@donnaisd.net

SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT STUDENTS

Donna ISD Migrant Department is committed to ensure that our students' needs are met. During this difficult time, we understand that resources may be limited. Our department is here to support parents, students, and campuses to ensure that our students receive a quality education despite this challenge. We encourage our migrant students to continue the learning plan that each campus has set forth for them; we will be making contact with all our parents/students for any concerns or questions you may have.

Migrant Objectives:

- Support campus distance learning initiatives.
- Make contact with migrant parents/students to encourage students to follow campus academic learning plans.
- Collaborate with migrant teachers or classroom teachers to monitor the progress of our migrant students.
- Continue our efforts to ensure that students are participating in Edmentum for credit recovery.
- Provide supplementary learning activities to migrant teachers, parents, and students.

Helpful Online Resources:

- www.txmigrantk12.net click on **Register** (top of page); Access Code is parent20
- https://info.edmentum.com/Worksheet-Bundles_Download.html Edmentum worksheet bundles

Should you need further assistance please contact R. Rodriguez (migrant director) via email at Rubicela.rodriguez@donnaisd.net



SUPPORT FOR GIFTED & TALENTED LEARNERS

The department of Advanced Academics is committed to ensuring that our gifted students' needs are met on a daily basis and especially now that our community is challenged with finding ways to support the education of our GT students while they are learning at home. We are available for support to students, parents, and staff and are encouraging everyone to call or email us if they need assistance.

Our goals continue to mirror the goals set for school districts by the State of Texas in their Guidelines for the Education of Gifted Students in that "gifted students will be provided with opportunities to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning and thinking as demonstrated by the development of innovative products and performances".

Great online resources that are appropriate for students while they are learning at home are:

- <https://www.pinterest.com/christy01owls/gifted-and-talented-projects/> for ideas on engaging diverse projects
- <http://metagifted.org/products/enrichmentProjectList/> for a list of enrichment projects
- <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/20-ideas-for-engaging-projects-suzie-boss> for ideas for engaging projects
- www.texaspsp.org for projects that are categorized by grade

If parents or students have questions or comments, please feel free to call 956-464-1600 ext. 1062 or email Mrs. Elena Betancourt-Delgado at mbdelgado@donnaisd.net.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

The Career Technical Education (CTE) Department is committed to providing our students with ongoing support and has developed a plan for each of our CTE programs to provide online lessons designed to reinforce and enrich student's skills while our schools remain closed. They are NOT meant to add stress to an already very difficult time in our lives. Please communicate with your teachers if you have any questions or concerns. We will be patient and give grace throughout this process.

Reminders:

- Continue to check your email daily for updates and information. If you have not heard from your teacher(s) or have questions, please email them.
- You can also call the school and leave a message for your teacher or the principal. To find email addresses, go to your school's website to locate teacher and principal email addresses.

Thank you for your ongoing support during this challenging time as we work together to provide instructional support for your son/daughter.

If you are having difficulty communicating with your CTE instructors, please call me, David Q. Moreno, CTE Director for help and guidance @ 956-289-6576 or dmoreno@donnaisd.net



TECHNOLOGY ACCESS & SUPPORT

Donna ISD Technology Department is committed to ensure that educators and students' needs are met.

Our department is available to support students, parents, teachers and campuses to continue quality instruction.

Support for students and families:

- **Devices:** At both comprehensive high schools, students may have been provided Sprint smartphone hotspots, additional hotspots, Chromebooks, and laptops to support online learning.

Online resources

- Teacher communication with students is facilitated through Edmodo for elementary campuses and Edmodo/Google Classroom platforms in secondary schools
- District online resources are available through Clever and/or Symbaloo (at <http://www.donnaisd.net/About-Us/Web-Resources/Symbaloo>) and Google Classroom, and links are available on the district website.
- Accounts are managed by district staff or automatically updated through active directory.

For any questions or assistance, contact: technologyall@donnaisd.net or dchavez@donnaisd.net.

For direct contact, please call (956) 464-1660: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Monday – Friday



ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

STAAR Assessment Information – Covid-19:

The Texas Assessment Program serves as an invaluable tool to accurately and reliably diagnose how well students have learned their grade-level and course content. This information is utilized by parents to support the academic growth of their children and educators utilize the assessment data to adjust how they approach teaching to maximize student learning. Though given the impact of COVID-19, the assessments have been suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. While the yearly used state assessments will not be available this year, TEA will support schools by offering other tools to diagnose student learning.

STAAR Grades 3–8 Assessments:

All State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) administrations scheduled for April, May, and June 2020 are cancelled. Student Success Initiative promotion/retention requirements are waived for the 2019–2020 school year.

STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments:

Most students have already completed courses that have corresponding EOC assessments before their senior year. Normally, a student who has not passed up to two of his or her required STAAR EOC assessments may graduate through the individual graduation committee (IGC) process. For students who are still working to meet assessment graduation requirements as seniors in the 2019–2020 school year, required performance on academic assessments to graduate are being waived for spring 2020.

- Effectively, this means that current seniors may graduate through the IGC process regardless of the number of EOC assessments they still need to pass. Districts will need to determine if a student has met all other graduation requirements, including successfully completing curriculum requirements or successfully completing an individualized education program.
- Please contact your child's campus with specific questions regarding his/her graduation status.

For students graduating in future years but taking one of the five courses with a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment this year, those students will not be responsible for meeting that EOC assessment graduation requirement if they earn course credit this year.

STAAR Alternate 2:

The STAAR Alternate 2 administration window scheduled for March 30 through April 21, 2020 is cancelled. For all students receiving special education services, the admission, review, and dismissal committee will continue to make educational decisions, including decisions related to required performance on academic assessments.

TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate:

The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) and TELPAS Alternate administration windows are currently open and are being extended to remain open through May 29, 2020, for a district to complete optionally if it chooses.

If you have any questions, please contact Ofelia Alvarez, Director of Testing & Evaluation at (956) 464-1600 EXT. 1034

