



"THE DISTRICT"

Donna Independent School District

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Oct. 28, 2020

Dear Donna ISD Community,

First, I would like to thank you for your continued support as we prepare for the next phase of on-site learning at our Donna ISD campuses. As you may remember, in my last message we shared that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requiring all school districts across the state to open our doors for on-site learning for students whose parents elect to have their child return to campus. At that time, the Valley was named a hot spot for COVID-19, which prompted many school districts including Donna ISD to seek a waiver from TEA requesting four additional weeks to transition. As a result, we were granted the four weeks, which allowed us to implement Phase I and continue virtual instruction along with transitioning a select group of students back to campus.

Because the number of positive cases in Hidalgo County remains steady, Donna ISD submitted a second waiver requesting TEA to extend our transitional window by four more weeks. Late Monday, we learned that TEA approved the waiver, however only two additional weeks were granted. The Phase II transition to gradually bring back this group of students will begin Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020.

Donna ISD's Return to School Committee convened in order to create the Phase II plan. The phase-in weeks were prioritized based on academic data of students who are failing, at-risk of failing, or End of Course re-testers. A campus representative will contact parents regarding their child's return to campus transition and date (**parents will still have the option to keep their child(ren) learning remotely from home**).

Phase II:

The week of Nov. 3-6, 2020

- High School: 12th graders who need to fulfill College, Career and Military Ready (CCMR) requirements or End of Course (EOC) re-testers
- Middle School: 6th, 7th and 8th graders who failed Beginning of the Year (BOY) assessment in reading/math
- Elementary: 3rd graders who failed two or more courses and 4th and 5th graders who failed BOY assessment in reading/math
- Life Skills
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

The week of Nov. 9-13, 2020

- High School: 10th graders who failed BOY assessment in reading/math
- Elementary: PreK-3, PreK-4, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders who failed two or more courses



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The week of Nov. 16-20, 2020

- High School: 9th graders who failed BOY assessment in reading/math and 11th graders who failed two or more courses
- All other students whose parents elect to have their child(ren) return to campus

As noted above, we expect Phase III to start the week of Nov. 16th. Parents will be asked through a survey to choose either on-site instruction or continue remote learning at home for their child(ren). Parents will be contacted to complete the survey by a campus representative.

Teachers will also be transitioning back to their respective campuses based on the phased-in weeks listed above.

The safety and well-being of students, teachers, and staff are our biggest priority. With the guidance from TEA, CDC, and local health authorities, we have been collaborating with campus administration for the safe return of more students and teachers to school. We invite you to visit our District website to see the plans, protocols, and videos created about safety in our schools during the pandemic. Visit our Learn & Lead Safely Plan at www.DonnaISD.net for more information.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your overwhelming support and patience as we move forward in our efforts to bring some form of normalcy to our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hafedh Azaiez
Superintendent of Schools