



# NAVARRO

---

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 26, 2020

Dear NISD Parents and Guardians,

Earlier this week, the Texas Education Agency hosted a conference call with all superintendents that was slated to include back-to-school guidance for face-to-face instruction. While information was shared about how districts could provide remote learning for students who were unable or uncomfortable in attending, the guidance on how to safely return to school was postponed due to the recent surge of COVID-19 cases across Texas.

Although we do anticipate that face-to-face instruction will be available in August, no timeline on when health & safety guidelines would be released was given. Although the decisions from the Governor and TEA's Commissioner will guide some aspects of how we safely return to school, we anticipate having discretion over other aspects. I wanted to share a little about how we are working through those decisions.

Last week, NISD surveyed parents to gauge their comfort level about returning to school in the fall. We had 628 responses to the survey. (I have attached the responses to this letter.) 46% of responses came from elementary parents, 32.5% were from intermediate, 28.5% were from the junior high and 44.9% were from high school parents. Of the responses, 33% of the parents were very comfortable with all students returning to school with minimal health & safety measures while 27% were very uncomfortable sending students back to school. 29% were uncomfortable with returning if more significant health & safety measures were mandated (ie, masks, social distancing, plexiglass, etc), 28% were uncomfortable returning with social distancing and 38% were uncomfortable returning to a remote learning environment for a short term and 57% were uncomfortable doing remote learning all year long.

We also asked parents to share their comfort level with various health & safety measures that could be utilized to prevent and mitigate COVID-19. While there was strong support for practicing basic hygiene (washing hands, use of hand sanitizer, cleaning surfaces), there was strong opposition to students wearing masks, eliminating group gatherings and the use of plexiglass on student desks.

Coupling this feedback with just a few cases of COVID-19 in our community since March, we are hopeful that most students will return to school with basic health & safety measures in place (washing hands, use of hand sanitizer, cleaning surfaces, looking at ways to lower the amount of students on buses, self-health screenings, being thoughtful about arrival/dismissal, etc.) while also ensuring we are prepared to scaffold more significant health & safety measures if our data should necessitate that in the future. We recognize that these survey responses came at a time where our community had hardly any cases. We will continue to gather feedback should our local context change.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Greg Gilcrease  
*President*

Rick Martin  
*Vice President*

Renee Rehfeld  
*Secretary*

Donna Gilliam  
*Assistant Secretary*

Hank Dietert  
*Trustee*

Tracy Large  
*Trustee*

Clinton Scheib  
*Trustee*

Wendi Russell  
*Superintendent*



# NAVARRO

---

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Greg Gilcrease  
*President*

Rick Martin  
*Vice President*

Renee Rehfeld  
*Secretary*

Donna Gilliam  
*Assistant Secretary*

Hank Dietert  
*Trustee*

Tracy Large  
*Trustee*

Clinton Scheib  
*Trustee*

Wendi Russell  
*Superintendent*

NISD WILL also offer a remote learning option for those students who are unable to or are uncomfortable with attending school as well. More details about remote learning will be made available in the coming weeks, but unlike this past spring, students selecting this option will have daily attendance taken, assignments turned in daily, and will operate under regular workload and grading guidelines. Information on how to select the remote learning option will be available by mid July. Students opting for remote learning will only be allowed to return to the regular classroom setting at the end of each grading period.

Navarro ISD has been working with its leadership team, school board and staff to determine how best to re-open school this fall. Next month, NISD will begin meeting with faculty groups to help with all of this planning. We have staff members working in 5 different re-entry teams that will be tackling both the instructional and operational aspects of our reentry. These groups will work through planning for fall classes and extra-curricular events. I know many have questions about what sports, cheer and other extra-curricular events will look like. We do have a team working on those questions as well.

Ultimately our task will be to abide by the guidelines set forth by TEA but for the areas where we have discretion, to make decisions that are reflective of our community – both in the spread of COVID-19 and in weighing the desires of staff & community with health & safety guidelines.

Thanks so much for all of your feedback throughout this process. We will continue to keep you posted as soon as we have the necessary information. We are excited to start school on August 19th!

Wendi Russell  
Navarro ISD Superintendent  
[wendi.russell@nisd.us](mailto:wendi.russell@nisd.us)

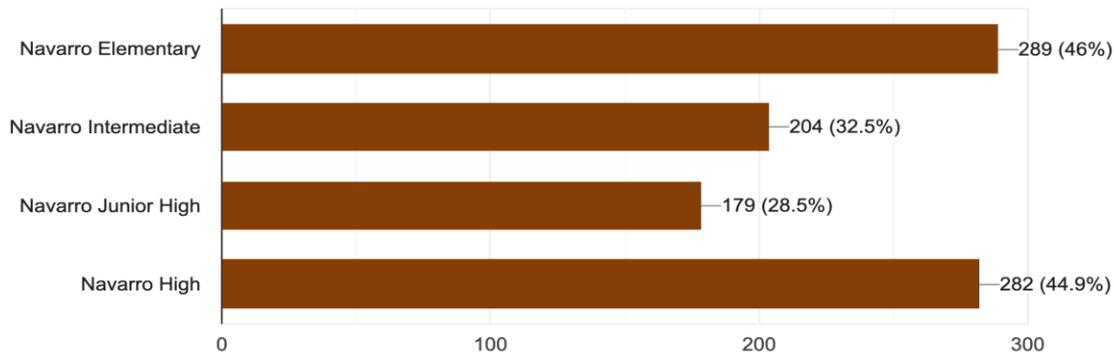
# NAVARRO ISD PARENT SURVEY FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

## 628 SURVEY RESPONSES

46% of parents answering the survey have elementary age students, 32.5% have intermediate school students, 28.5% have junior high students, and 44.9% have high school students.

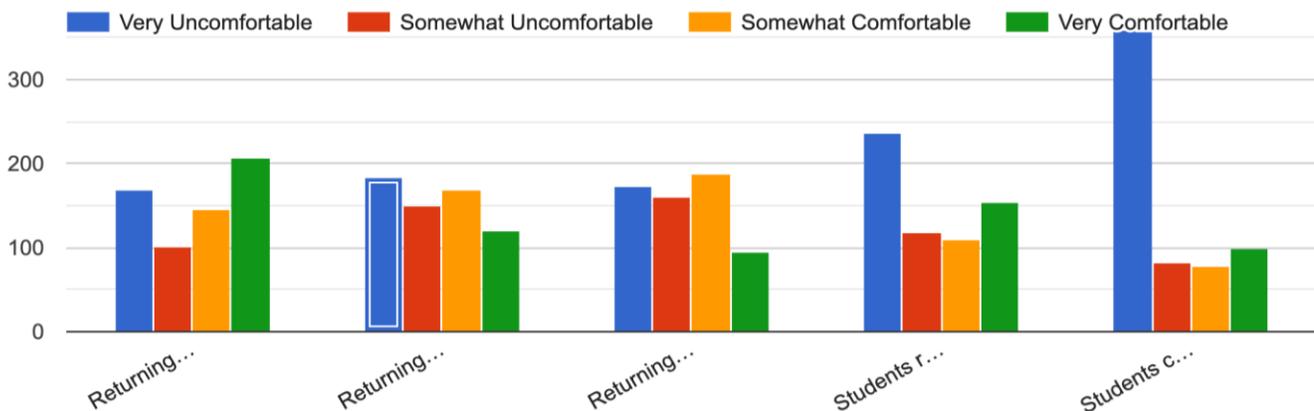
What school(s) would your student(s) attend in 2020-21? (Check all that apply)

628 responses



## LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Learning Environments: In thinking about returning to campus in the fall, please rate your comfort level with each of the following scenarios.



QUESTION 1. Returning to classrooms, just like before (100% present every day)

QUESTION 2. Returning to classrooms (100% present every day), but with safety measures including face masks, plexiglass dividers, hand-washing protocols, etc.

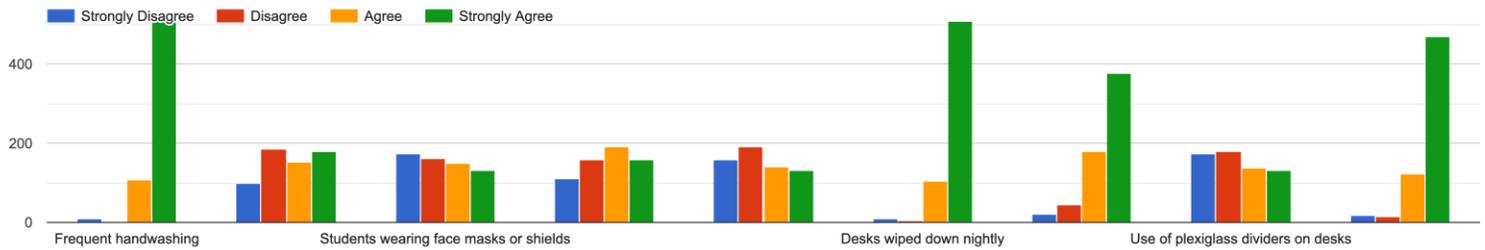
QUESTION 3. Returning to school with social distancing (6 feet apart) through an alternating schedule (M/W or T/H)

QUESTION 4. Students returning to Remote Learning until it is safer to return to campus

QUESTION 5. Students complete the entire 2020-21 school year online

## Thinking about Health and Safety Protocols:

Health & Safety Protocols: Please rate which health and safety measures should be implemented in 2020-21



QUESTION 1. Frequent handwashing

QUESTION 2. Employees wearing a face mask or shield

QUESTION 3. Students wearing face masks or shields

QUESTION 4. Social distancing of students

QUESTION 5. Elimination of large group gatherings (recess, cafeteria, assemblies, etc.)

QUESTION 6. Desks wiped down nightly

QUESTION 7. Desks wiped down between class periods

QUESTION 8. Use of plexiglass dividers on desks

QUESTION 9. Use of hand sanitizer

## THOUGHTS ON AN INTERSESSIONAL CALENDAR PRESENTED BY TEA:

