



Mr. Cody Mize
Mineola Independent School District
Superintendent
1695 W. Loop 564
Mineola, Texas 75773

Monday, October 5th, 2020

Re: Remote Instruction at Mineola Independent School District

This week marks the end of the first nine weeks of school. Throughout this period, we had the opportunity to continuously monitor and reflect on the start of the school year at Mineola ISD. Despite the challenges we have faced from the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to see students, teachers, parents, and staff members adapt to the circumstances that are before us.

Currently at Mineola ISD, 90% of our students are on campus receiving face-to-face instruction from their classroom teachers. The health and safety protocols that are implemented continue to keep our students and staff safe while at school. We have been extremely blessed to only have five lab-confirmed positive student cases of COVID-19 in a district of close to 1600 students. Of those five, four have recovered and returned to school. One is currently recovering at home with minor symptoms. Our staff has six cases of lab-confirmed COVID-19 since March of 2020 and all of those staff members have safely recovered and returned to work in the district.

After reviewing the data from our first nine weeks of school, we realize that our greatest threat now exists for those that are receiving remote instruction and are not being successful

academically. One thing we have learned since March is that children receive the best education when they are in a classroom face-to-face with their teachers. Currently, 59% of our students receiving remote instruction at the high school and middle school grade levels are failing one or more courses. Currently, 45% of our primary school students are not demonstrating proficiency on grade level who are working remotely. Our elementary school has seen similar statistics.

The 2nd nine week grading period begins on Tuesday, October 13th. At that time, we will transition back to 100% face-to-face instruction. If a student tests positive or has to quarantine due to COVID-19, the district will offer instructional support for the duration of the illness. We also realize that a small number of the percentage of students who are currently receiving remote instruction have a major healthcare concern inside their home. Those students may continue to receive remote instruction with proper documentation from a healthcare provider if this involves them or a family member living in their home.

We believe this decision is in the best interest of the students and staff of Mineola ISD. We also understand that there are some who may disagree with this decision. We respect your right to do so. Here are some other options if you do not believe it is in your child's best interest to return to face-to-face instruction on Tuesday, October 13th:

- Request transfer status from any other public school or TEA accredited charter school who accepts online transfers
- Withdraw your child to engage in homeschool education
- Enroll your child in an online school operated by the Texas Virtual School Network
 - K-12 online (www.k12.com) Free for 3rd-12th. Tuition for K-2nd
 - TTU K-12 (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/>) Tuition

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at mizec@mineolaisd.net or by phone at (903) 569-2448. Mineola ISD remains committed to providing the best education for all of our students as we strive to build one of the best school districts in East Texas.

Our best always,



J. Cody Mize