



FORT DAVIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1339
Fort Davis, TX 79734

6 October 2020

TO: Parents of FDISD Students

FR: Graydon Hicks III
Superintendent, FDISD

RE: At-Home/Remote Instructional Setting

The Fort Davis ISD Board of Trustees voted to end the option for VOLUNTARY At-Home, or remote, instruction for FDISD students *at the end of the current three-weeks grading period (October 16, 2020)*. This decision was made by the Board after considering the success of safety protocols on campus, and feedback from FDISD staff expressing serious concerns about the impact of simultaneous remote learning on students both in the classroom and at home. This means that all FDISD students will be required to attend instruction On-Campus beginning on Monday, October 19, 2020. Students that are required to quarantine at home due to exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19, or due to receiving a positive test for COVID-19 themselves, will receive instruction at-home during the period of their quarantine. FDISD will continue to follow the Board approved Standard Response Protocol, transferring instruction to the at-home (remote) setting as necessary for the remainder of the school year; however, parents and students **may not voluntarily** choose the at-home instruction setting in lieu of attending classes on campus.

The Board heard public comments from FDISD staff which detailed the enormous efforts being made to accommodate remote instruction students, with much of the effort being spent on simple administrative issues, such as attendance and virtual connections, reducing actual instruction time. Teachers expressed serious concern that neither students at home or on campus were benefiting from the divided efforts of teachers in the classroom. FDISD has seen no active cases of COVID-19 among staff or students. There are no active COVID-19 cases in the county. Proactive safety measures that staff and students are taking in the classrooms, in athletics, and for visitors have proven to be effective. Parents, students, and visitors are following the health protocols very closely, and we will continue to follow those protocols until they are no longer necessary. FDISD personnel believe that the TEA will require state assessments to be administered in the spring, with student performance results driving instructional requirements for the 2021-2022 school year. The FDISD Board and staff are committed to providing the best possible instruction to our students, and this effort is best served by requiring students to attend classes on campus.

Students with unique health issues and instructional needs will continue to be served in the instructional setting that has been determined to be best for them, including at-home/remote instruction as required. FDISD will move to at-home/remote instruction if the FDISD Standard Response Protocol indicates a need for the district to temporarily suspend on campus operations, but every effort will be focused on returning to campus as soon as safely possible.



FORT DAVIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1339
Fort Davis, TX 79734

Parents who believe their students should not attend instruction on campus may:

- Withdraw your child to Home-School
- Transfer your child to another district that continues to offer at-home instruction on a voluntary basis
- Enroll your child in an online school, such as TTU K-12 (www.dept.ttu.edu/k12/) or K-12 online (www.k12.com)

FDISD values all of our students and believes that we can safely provide the best instructional experience for our children on campus. We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue to care for our students. FDISD encourages parents with questions to contact the campus principals for more information and assistance (Dirk-Anderson 432-426-4454, JSHS 432-426-4444).

Respectfully,

Graydon Hicks III
Superintendent