

HUDSON ISD

October 16, 2020

Hudson ISD Parents,

The first nine-week period of the 2020-2021 school year has now passed. As we prepared for the reopening of schools this year, we opted to provide instruction to our students in two formats, on-campus (face-to-face) and remotely (primarily online instruction). This was certainly an effort to provide a quality service to all students during the current pandemic. Remote instruction is not required.

After extensive review of student progress, we have determined that remote instruction is not feasible for most of our remote learners. Likewise, the added burden of a dual system is not sustainable for our staff. While many of our students have recently chosen to return to the campus, 11% of our student enrollment have chosen to remain in the remote system. Only half of these remote students are being successful. We simply cannot afford the risk of academic failure, where over 100 students are likely to be retained for the school year or lose essential credits for graduation. We have diligently been in communication with parents to encourage the return of unsuccessful students back to campus.

We have supported parent-choice as required if both systems of learning are being offered. We are not allowed to simply require certain students to attend on-campus instruction. We cannot pick and choose who can opt for remote learning. If we offer remote learning, any student may choose that format regardless of their success rate. We have urged parents to seriously consider the academic risks versus the health risks of our students.

It is Hudson ISD's belief that face-to-face instruction is far superior to that of remote learning. On-campus instruction remains the most appropriate method for academic success, social and emotional growth, and what we believe to be in the best interest of students.

Therefore, Hudson ISD is discontinuing the option for remote instruction. Per the Texas Education Agency, districts are now required to provide 14 days of notice to parents of such decisions. The last day of optional remote instruction will be Friday, October 30th, 2020.

Please note that parents who are concerned about the health and safety of their children do still have options. The following options are allowed:

- Parents may request a transfer to another Texas school district that offers remote learning as an option. It will be up to that district as to whether they will accept the transfer request.
- Parents may withdraw their child to participate in a homeschool environment. This may be accomplished by communicating in writing to the campus principal. An original signature will be required for this request.
- Parents may enroll their child in the Texas Virtual School Network. Texas Education Agency provides resources that list all approved programs.

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Failure to return to campus without evidence of the parent choice will result in immediate truancy action.

While the optional remote learning platform is being suspended, the district will continue to provide educational opportunities to students who are required to quarantine or self-isolate due to COVID-19 exposure or infection. Please note that the district may choose to return all students to remote learning in the event of an unexpected outbreak of COVID-19 or community spread of other diseases.

Please contact your child's campus office concerning his/her return to campus. Each campus will be able to answer questions regarding this transition, scheduling, protocols, and other requirements.

Hudson ISD is committed to the success of all students. We look forward to the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Donny Webb, Superintendent

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