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Superintendent of Schools*



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Weslaco ISD Family,

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well during these trying times. It has always been our commitment to keep children, staff, and families safe while we provide the best, well-rounded educational experience. Please know that while circumstances continue to change, we are actively participating in weekly virtual meetings with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), staying informed about safety guidelines from health officials, and exploring all allowable possibilities for the 2020-2021 school year.

As of now, the TEA is requiring all districts to provide both on-campus and remote learning options to parents. **On-campus** learning will involve social distancing and other safety protocols from the TEA, Centers of Disease Control (CDC), as well as local, county, and state officials. **Remote** or home learning will consist of a combination of instructional lessons, videos, and/or conferences with teachers. A third possible option is **hybrid** learning—a combination of both learning at home and in school.

We are also exploring a back-to-school transition period. During the first three weeks of the school year, the TEA is permitting districts to limit access to on-campus instruction to support a safe, effective return. Access to on-campus instruction must be allowed to students who cannot participate in remote learning because of a lack of broadband internet or technology devices at home.

Since the spring closure, we have learned a lot from the feedback of others and the overall experience. As a result, we have been making adjustments and enhancements throughout the summer in preparation for the new school year.

To help finalize plans, we will be collecting information from our employees, and principals will be contacting parents beginning late July to once again ask about their preference of learning for the upcoming year. We understand that preferences shared during the June 2020 survey may have changed due to the escalating pandemic. We will also be verifying student technology and transportation needs so we are well-prepared.

Remember, we have always been at the forefront of education. These are unprecedented times for learning, but Weslaco ISD has a proven record of adapting to change and utilizing new technology while keeping students and staff safe. Our TEA-certified teachers have been integrating Google classroom in their lessons for years, and we have had the ability to provide Chromebooks to all our students for several years now.

In the weeks to come, we will continue to meet with the TEA and health officials. We will remain driven to provide the safest, possible pathways for all students, staff, and families.

Thank you for making Weslaco ISD the Right Choice! Please continue to be healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Priscilla Canales*