



TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EQUITY CHARACTER EXCELLENCE TEAM JOY

October 5, 2020

Dear parents and families,

I hope that this message finds you safe, healthy, and beginning to adjust to distance learning and our virtual classroom routines. With the end of our first quarter a few weeks away, I am writing to share an update on our decision-making process for the second quarter of the school year.

Throughout this global pandemic, our goal has always been to bring students back to school in-person as soon as we can do so. Many of you have been writing to me and to our Board of Education to encourage Tulsa Public Schools to stay in distance learning for the second quarter. Many others are writing to ask that we return students to school at least in some way. Others have asked that certain grade levels or groups return. We are listening to your feedback. Importantly, we are also engaging with our school leaders, teachers, public health experts, and medical advisors to understand as many perspectives and implications as we can.

During the Tulsa Board of Education's regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 5, I will share my recommendation that - as long as community infection rates remain stable or decrease - we begin carefully phasing students back into versions of in-person learning during the second quarter of the year. If Tulsa's COVID-19 rates decrease adequately, we are very hopeful that we will be able to support students being back fully in-person before the end of the calendar year.

It is important to know that even with changes to our learning model, we intend to provide flexibility for families who would prefer to have their children continue learning remotely. **Parents will have the option for students to remain in distance learning.** Students who are registered in Tulsa Virtual Academy may also remain in distance learning for the rest of the school year.

The board will take action on a recommendation for quarter two during its next regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6:30pm. This meeting will be live-streamed at tpstv.viebit.com. Visit www.tulsaschools.org/board for information about speaking at board meetings.

We will hold Zoom-based meetings for Tulsa Public Schools parents, students, teachers, and support professionals during the week. **We will hold a meeting for parents on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m.** - you will receive an invitation for that meeting shortly. The meeting livestream and recording will be available at tpstv.viebit.com. Spanish interpretation of the meeting will be broadcast live at www.facebook.com/EscuelasPublicasdeTulsa.

We all need and want our students back in our school buildings as soon and as safely as possible, and every Tulsan has a role to play in decreasing COVID-19 infection rates. Please follow the public health guidance for COVID-19 prevention:

**wear your mask,
wash your hands, and
watch your distance.**

Stay safe and well,



Deborah A. Gist, Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS AS PRESENTED ON OCTOBER 5

IF COVID-19 CONDITIONS REMAIN STABLE	IF COVID-19 CONDITIONS IMPROVE	IF COVID-19 CONDITIONS WORSEN
<p>November 9: grades Pre-K/K return in hybrid (2 days in-person, 3 days distance)</p> <p>November 16: grades 1, 2, 3 return in hybrid (2 days in-person, 3 days distance)</p> <p>November 30: grades 4-12 return in hybrid (2 days in-person, 3 days distance)</p>	<p>November 9: grades Pre-K/K return in hybrid (2 days in-person, 3 days distance)</p> <p>November 16: grades 1, 2, 3 return in hybrid (2 days in-person, 3 days distance)</p> <p>November 30: grades Pre-K-3 shift to in-person*</p> <p>November 30: grades 4-12 return in-person*</p>	<p>November 9: grades Pre-K-12 remain in distance</p>

**In-person learning includes four days in-classroom and distance learning on Wednesdays*