



Fabens ISD

Special Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2020 6:30 PM

All students of Fabens Independent School District will be successful, life-long, global learners.

Agenda of Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees Fabens ISD

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fabens ISD will be held October 15, 2020, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Central Office, Board Room, 821 NE G Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838.

Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, this meeting will be conducted by video conference or telephone call. At least a quorum of the Board will be participating by video conference or telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have been suspended by the Order of the Governor.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice.

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance** 3
2. **Communication and Visitors** 4
 - A. To Submit Questions or Comments - please email:
boardmeeting@fabensisd.net
 - B. Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-x1AKVIN4MC4_bHIShDLdg/videos?view_as=subscriber
or at www.fabensisd.net a link is available under the Fabens ISD Announcements
Webinar ID # 929 3382 4594
3. **Board of Trustees Business**
 - A. Discussion and Approval of Four (4) Week Extension Waiver 5
4. **Adjourn** 27

FABENS I.S.D.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: 10/15/2020 Presented By: Board President
Subject: Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance Related Page(s) N/A

Action

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
CALL to ORDER, ROLL CALL and
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The October 15, 2020 Special Meeting is called to order at _____.
Let the minutes show that:

1) all members are in attendance

OR

2) _____ is (are) not in attendance.

Reason: () Illness () Family Emergency
() Out of Town () Other _____

_____(name) will lead us in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

**FABENS ISD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMUNICATION AND VISITORS
Board Agenda Item**

TITLE	Communication & Visitors	Date Requested	10/15/2020
Requested By:	N/A	Approximate Time	Up to 15 minutes
Division Approval:	N/A	Action Needed by:	N/A
Action Requested:	N/A	Information Only:	Yes
People Participating In Presentation:	Community	Who Has Been Involved:	N/A
How Will It Benefit the District's Mission/Goals?		How Will Request Be Financed?	
		Cost to District:	

This meeting is being conducted by audio conference in accordance with the governance authorization concerning suspension of certain open meeting law requirements for the COVID-19 disaster.

As we would at any in-person meeting, members of the public who have followed the instructions on the meeting notice for registering to speak during the public comment portion will be recognized. If the speaker submitted written comments to the email provided in advance, the comments will be read into record. If you would like to provide comment at a future meeting conducted via teleconference, please follow the instructions on the meeting notice.

**FABENS ISD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUSINESS
Board Agenda Item**

TITLE	Discussion and Approval of Four (4) Week Extension Waiver	Date Requested	10/15/2020
Requested By:	Dr. Veronica Vijil	Approximate Time	30 minutes
Division Approval:		Action Needed:	Yes
Action Requested:	The Administration recommends approval of the four (4) week extension waiver	Information Only:	No
People Participating In Presentation:	Dr. Vijil	Who Has Been Involved:	
How Will It Benefit the District's Mission/Goals?		How Will Request Be Financed?	
		Cost to District:	

Back-to-School Transition

7. Can I establish a phased return to on-campus instruction to ensure my public health procedures are fully up and running? *Posted September 24, 2020*

As part of a start-of-year transition period, for up to the first four weeks of your instructional calendar, and with board approval, for an additional four weeks, you may limit the number of students who otherwise access on campus instruction. This could be done by capacity limit by classroom across all grades, a limited number of grades starting by day, or some similar means, and could include being fully remote during this period. To the extent an LEA chooses to implement this transition period, school systems should still begin on-campus instruction as soon as possible while keeping staff and students safe and should continue to monitor the local public health situation accordingly.

If a school system believes it is best for the health and safety of students and staff to continue to restrict access to on-campus instruction beyond the first four weeks of their instructional calendar, they must submit a board approved waiver request to TEA to access the second four-week transition window. The board must take action to authorize this waiver by specific vote and cannot otherwise delegate the waiver application to the superintendent. The waiver application must include an indication as to the local public health conditions that the LEA believes would warrant a faster end to the transition period (e.g., the most recent weekly count of COVID-19 cases is lower than the prior week in the county, and test positivity rate in the county is under 10%). Teachers, staff, and parents should be consulted about the transition plan before the waiver is submitted. All waivers are approved upon receipt.

During this transition period, LEAs are still required to allow all students to access on campus instruction who come from households without internet access or appropriate remote learning devices. In the event a board extends the initial four-week transition, at least some on campus instruction must be provided each day during the extended transition period. All parents who want on campus instruction must be provided that on campus attendance for their students at the immediate conclusion of the transition period (as opposed to the end of the first grading period, when parents otherwise choose remote instruction).

The procedures used by the LEA to limit access to on campus attendance during this period should be clearly communicated to families in advance. Beyond access provided to those students without internet access or appropriate remote learning devices, LEAs are encouraged to prioritize on campus access during the transition window for students most academically or otherwise at risk who will benefit the most from an on campus instructional experience.

School systems that need more than the additional four-week extended transition window should email waivers@tea.texas.gov for information on requesting additional transition days. Any additional transition window will require board approval after preliminary TEA plan feedback has been received. Any transition window extension plan would have to include increasing levels of allowed on campus instruction. Note: Governor Abbott's Executive Order 30 describes certain areas of the state where certain business occupancy levels are raised to 75% and others that remain at 50%. The agency will take into consideration whether school systems are located in whole or in part in areas that remain at the 50% threshold when determining additional transition day waiver approval.

8. **I am concerned that if I shorten my daily operational schedule during the transition period that my LEA will not meet the 75,600 operational minute requirement. What flexibility do LEAs have when it comes to setting the daily operational schedule during the transition period?** *Posted August 4, 2020*

During the transition period and transition extension, LEAs can claim the number of operational minutes they would have claimed had school been operating normally even if they decide to provide less than a full day of on-campus instruction. This will allow LEAs to prioritize which students receive on-campus instruction during the transition period and allow LEAs to create daily on-campus schedules that provide the most benefit to both students and campuses as they prepare for larger scale on-campus instruction at the conclusion of the transition period.

9. **If you can accommodate all students with connectivity and devices but parents want to send their students to school, do you have to have in-person setting during the transition period?** *Posted August 13, 2020*

Districts that provide remote, online instructional access to all of their students are not required to offer on-campus instruction for the first four weeks of the transition period. As indicated above, during the transition period, LEAs must allow students to access on campus instruction who come from households without internet access or appropriate remote learning devices. However, if all students have been provided the necessary devices and have connectivity to access those devices, then an in-person setting is not required during this time. LEAs can provide



Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>

4 week extension waiver

13 messages

Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 11:48 AM

To: waivers@tea.texas.gov

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>

Hello. I am the superintendent of Fabens ISD. Unfortunately, the numbers in the Region 19 area (El Paso County) continue to rise. Our hospitality rate is at 15%. This is our intercession week, and we were planning on bringing back more students next week, however, after speaking with our local health official we will have to pause that phase. If the numbers continue to climb, I will need additional time to delay on-campus learning. Could you please send me the link the waiver that will be needed to delay/restrict the number of students on campus?

Thank you.

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Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil
Superintendent
Fabens ISD

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Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil

Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 12:19 PM

To: Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Hello,

If the district feels during the initial transition period that additional time is necessary, please provide the details related to your specific situation that you believe would require your LEA to continue to provide remote instruction (beyond the up to 8-week transition and not due to a confirmed case of COVID-19 on a campus) and receive funding. Additionally, please address the following:

- Specify the length of time the district is requesting
- Describe the phase-in plan you have for allowing those who wish to return on campus to do so and provide dates
- What is the current number of students on campus and what is that as a percentage of enrollment; please note the date of this data, the first date of any instruction, and the first date on-campus instruction was offered this school year
- What is the current number of students that do not have access to the internet or a device
- From the most recent survey of parents and guardians, what is the percentage of those who indicated they wanted on campus instruction (daily or partially), and what is the response rate of your survey; please note the date of the survey
- What is the current rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations in your trauma service area; please note the date of this data.

Each waiver request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and additional information or details may be requested.

Thank you

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Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 9:43 AM

To: Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information for review of the Fabens ISD request for a 4-week extension waiver.

Attached to this email, you will find the responses to the questions, the threshold recommendations from the El Paso Health Authority, and a letter from health authority, Dr. Hector Ocaranza.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Responses for 4-week extension waiver- Fabens Independent School District

- Specify the length of time the district is requesting
- The length of time Fabens ISD is requesting is 4 weeks with the possibility of extending an additional 4-5 weeks (end of 2nd grading period). The 4 weeks will begin if and when the hospitalization rate of 14-15% is sustained for 7 days. In the last two days we have learned about 2 more staff members and 4 students testing positive.
- Describe the phase-in plan you have for allowing those who wish to return on campus to do so and provide dates
- A total of 3 parent surveys have been conducted for the purpose of determining the number of parents whose children will return F-2-F. The most recent survey opened on September 21, 2020 and final calls were made this week to record responses for all students. The week of October 5-9, 2020 was the district's intercession week. The new (2nd) grading period begins October 12, 2020 and ends December 18, 2020. Current survey results indicated that a higher percentage of parents would send their children back for F-2-F instruction.
- What is the current number of students on campus and what is that as a percentage of enrollment; please note the date of this data, the first date of any instruction, and the first date on-campus instruction was offered this school year.

First Date of Instruction: August 10, 2020

First Date of F-2-F (on-campus) Instruction: September 14, 2020

September 14-October 2, 2020 Campus Numbers:

Campus	Students On Campus	Total Enrollment	% of Students on Campus
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	144	580	25%
O'Donnell Intermediate	77	283	27%
Fabens Middle School	52	473	11%
Fabens High School	150	674	22%

- What is the current number of students that do not have access to the internet or a device.

We received enough devices (chromebooks) to distribute to all students (100%).

We recently received our order of Verizon hot spots (operation connectivity) and are in the process of distributing them. According to our technology director, we believe we have enough to distribute to all students who indicated they need a hotspot. However, there are students who live in the remote part of the district – close to the Mexico border who may not be able to connect even with a hotspot – approximately 25 students.

- From the most recent survey of parents and guardians, what is the percentage of those who indicated they wanted on campus instruction (daily or partially), and what is the response rate of your survey; please note the date of the survey.

Response rate: 99%

The most recent survey indicates the following (as of October 7, 2020):

Campus	Students <u>Requesting</u> On Campus for 2 nd grading period	Total Enrollment	% of Students <u>Requesting</u> on Campus for 2 nd grading period
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	249	588	42%
O'Donnell Intermediate	124	288	43%
Fabens Middle School	127	473	27%
Fabens High School	186	674	28%

- What is the current rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations in your trauma service area; please note the date of this data.

October 7, 2020: 14%

[Quoted text hidden]

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Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil

3 attachments



Cover letter School waivers 10-7-2020 FINAL.pdf

218K



School Thresholds Scaledown 10-5-2020 FINAL.pdf

265K



Responses for 4-week extension waiver.pdf

637K

Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 10:35 AM

To: Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Hello,

Please address the items/questions below. Thank you.

- Please confirm that the LEA is requesting the waiver for weeks 9-12 of the LEA's instructional calendar and plans to utilize it only after the hospitalization rate reaches 14-15% for 7 consecutive days. In other words, if this threshold is not met, will the LEA will continue to allow all students (who so choose) on campus for instruction for weeks 9-12? Please clarify whether the LEA is basing the hospitalization rate on the City of El Paso or on the DSHS Trauma Service Area.
- Should the request be granted, what are the LEA's established timelines/dates for the increasing return of students to campus and what are the total/percentages of students that will return at each phase?

Division of Waivers

Office of Governance & Accountability

Texas Education Agency

512.463.9630

waivers@tea.texas.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 2:17 PM

To: Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>

Before I send this would you please read it over and make sure I have answered their questions. I also wonder if I need to add the school guidance closure since we continue to have positive cases at the high school. Thoughts? I also attached it as a word document - might be easier to read in that format.

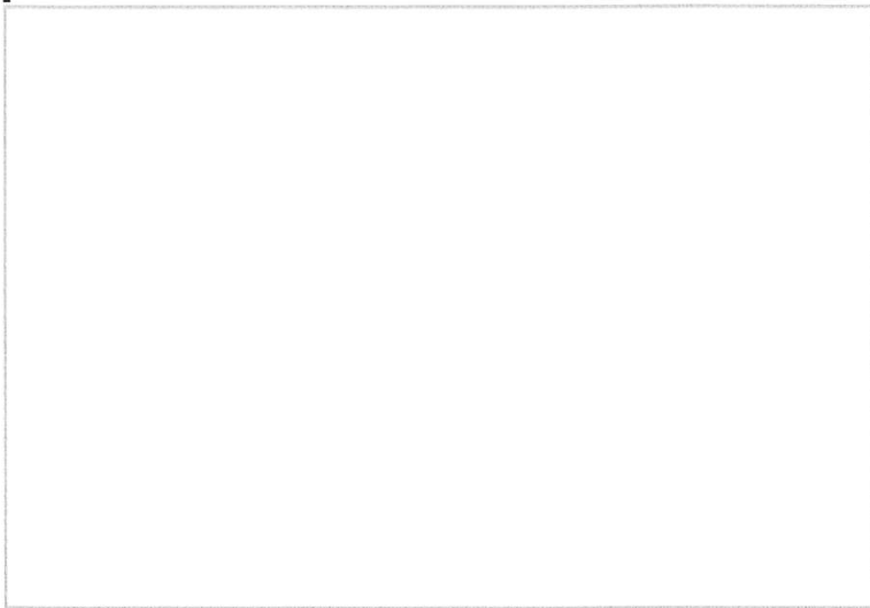
- Please confirm that the LEA is requesting the waiver for weeks 9-12 of the LEA's instructional calendar and plans to utilize it only after the hospitalization rate reaches 14-15% for 7 consecutive days.

Fabens ISD is requesting the waiver for weeks (#11-14) or (#12-15) of our instructional calendar. El Paso has met most of the moderate community-wide spread parameters and thus will avoid bringing more children to schools for in-person instruction. Those who had already been attending F-2-F instruction will be able to continue.

In addition to the hospitalization rate, we are now using the most recent guidance and parameters from The City of El Paso Department of Public Health. Accordingly, the following parameters are:



Should the majority of the next set of parameters be met, Fabens ISD would revert to remote learning for the majority of the students except for the students who experience connectivity issues or individual considerations for other reasons. By reviewing our current data, if the spike continues at the same rate, this would impact weeks (#11-14) or (#12-15) of our instructional calendar.



In other words, if this threshold is not met, will the LEA will continue to allow all students (who so choose) on campus for instruction for weeks 9-12?

If the majority of the thresholds (3 out of 4) are not met, Fabens ISD will continue with the current number of students in class and follow the transition plan to move toward phased in F-2-F numbers at the parents' request (survey results sent with initial responses).

Please clarify whether the LEA is basing the hospitalization rate on the City of El Paso or on the DSHS Trauma Service Area.

According to the guidance from The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH), the district is basing the hospitalization rate on the City of El Paso Area. (DSHS typically 1-1.5% lower than City of EP).

Should the request be granted, what are the LEA's established timelines/dates for the increasing return of students to campus and what are the total/percentages of students that will return at each phase?

Similar to other Region 19 districts, we would move to Stages II-IV when the majority of the thresholds are met (3 of 4). The following is the timeline we would use to determine a safe return of students.

City/County of El Paso/Fabens ISD COVID-19 School Score Card

Second 9-Weeks Transition Plan

Stage I/Phase I	Stage II/Transition Phase 2	Stage III/Transition Phase 3	Stage IV/Transition Phase 4
14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita	Sustained decline in daily cases for 14 consecutive days, as reflected in 7-day rolling average	Continued decline or plateau for more than 14 consecutive days, as reflected in 7-day rolling average	Continued decline in cases met in stage 3 or plateau for more than 21 days, as reflected in 7-day rolling average
7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: greater than or equal to 10% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days	7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: less than 10% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days	7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: less than 7.5% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days	7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: less than 5% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days
7-day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Greater than or equal to 25 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days	7-Day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Less than 25 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days	7-Day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Less than 20 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days	7-Day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Less than 15 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days
COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Greater than or equal to 15% for more than 14 days	COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Less than 15% for more than 14 days	COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Less than 10% for more than 14 days	COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Less than or equal to 5% for more than 14 days

Stage II:

Campus	Students On Campus	Total Enrollment	% of Students on Campus
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	144	580	25%
O'Donnell Intermediate	77	283	27%
Fabens Middle School	52	473	11%
Fabens High School	150	674	22%

Stage III:

Campus	Students Requesting On	Total Enrollment	% of Students
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	Campus for 2 nd grading period		Requesting on Campus for 2 nd grading period
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	249	588	42%
O'Donnell Intermediate	124	288	43%
Fabens Middle School	127	473	27%
Fabens High School	186	674	28%

Stage IV: A new survey would be sent to parents for updated percentages.

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Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil



Responses.4-week.extension.Letterhead.Part.2.docx
243K

Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 3:25 PM

To: Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Audry Ortegon <aortegon@fabensisd.net>, Elizabeth Ramirez Nurse <elizaram@fabensisd.net>

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the responses. We now have looked closely at the guidance provided by The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) and are able to offer a more robust way to measure a variety of parameters set forth by DPH.

The responses are found in the attached document.

On Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 10:35 AM Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov> wrote:

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Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil



Responses.4-week.extension.Letterhead.Part.2.pdf
717K

Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 7:45 AM

To: Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Audry Ortegon <aortegon@fabensisd.net>, Elizabeth Ramirez Nurse <elizaram@fabensisd.net>, Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Thank you for the information. Additionally..

- The district is requesting 4 weeks which "will begin if and when the hospitalization rate of 14-15% is sustained for 7 days." As of 10/9, has the district met this metric?
 - Based on TSA rates, this metric has not been met. It looks like the district is using City of El Paso data and we are unable to locate historical data.
 - The City data metric, as provided, is a hospitalization rate of 15% or greater sustained for 7 days. The district seems to be using a slightly more stringent threshold (14%-15%). Is the district using 14% or 15% as its minimum threshold when determining which of the city parameters have been met?
- If the district has currently not met the metric above, how many students do you plan to return to campus on Monday?

- How often will the district review and assess the parameters to add or scale back students (ex: would this occur mid-week, weekly, every 2 weeks), as the parameters are on 7 and 14 day cycles?

[Quoted text hidden]

Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 11:39 AM

To: Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Audry Ortegon <aortegon@fabensisd.net>, Elizabeth Ramirez Nurse <elizaram@fabensisd.net>

We, too, are having challenges with finding historical data for the hospitalization rate for the county of El Paso (vs TSA rates). I have contacted the City of El Paso Health Department for assistance, and they are working on it.

Thus, we are requesting that the other three (3) parameters be used for determining closure. They are:

7-Day Rolling Average Cases Per Capita: ≥ 25 cases per 100,000 for ≥ 14 days - As of 10/8 the number is 8 consecutive days.

7-Day Rolling Average Testing Positivity Rate: $\geq 10\%$ for ≥ 14 days - As of 10/8 the number is 3 consecutive days

14-Day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita - As of 10/8 the number is 4 consecutive days.

Thus, if this trend continues, the district would revert to remote teaching/learning (except for students who have connectivity problems or extenuating circumstances for a family) would occur October 19. The district is requesting this 4-week waiver for weeks 11-14 (October 19- November 13). Again, we would only resort to this if the trend for the three (3) parameters continued with the rate it is currently. If the district has currently not met the metric above, how many students do you plan to return to campus on Monday?

- **If the district has currently not met the metric above, how many students do you plan to return to campus on Monday?**
- **273 students (with an additional 150 on Monday, October 19, 2020 after a 5 day closure due to a high rate of positive cases at Fabens High School - 423 total on 10/19.**
- **How often will the district review and assess the parameters to add or scale back students (ex: would this occur mid-week, weekly, every 2 weeks), as the parameters are on 7 and 14 day cycles? Every 2 weeks.**

[Quoted text hidden]

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Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil

Elizabeth Ramirez Nurse <elizaram@fabensisd.net>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 11:49 AM

To: Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Audry Ortegon <aortegon@fabensisd.net>, Ruben Carrillo <rcarr@fabensisd.net>

If we happen to close the high school next week how will that affect our flu event? I know It had been asked to Mrs. Mora before and she said if the district closes we can still have the flu events because it is a drive-up and it is considered an emergency service, like testing. We will need to use the school for restrooms. Do you think that would be a problem?

[Quoted text hidden]

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Liz Ramirez, RN
Fabens ISD District Health Services Coordinator
Fabens High School Nurse
Office-(915)765-2623

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 12:45 PM

To: Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Audry Ortegon <aortegon@fabensisd.net>, Elizabeth Ramirez Nurse <elizaram@fabensisd.net>, Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Because the criteria have not been met, the LEA has indicated that it will bring back 273 students on 10/12/20 and 150 of the high school students on 10/19/20. Based on these numbers, we are assuming the LEA is referring to the exact number of students that were already allowed on campus for instruction from September 14th to October 2nd (see highlights below):

September 14-October 2, 2020 Campus Numbers:

Campus	Students On Campus	Total Enrollment	% of Students on Campus
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	144	580	25%
O'Donnell Intermediate	77	283	27%
Fabens Middle School	52	473	11%
Fabens High School	150	674	22%

Please note as stated in question 7 in the Back to School Transition section of the SY 2020-21 Attendance and Enrollment FAQ: Any transition window extension plan would have to include *increasing levels of allowed on campus instruction*. What are the established timelines for the increasing return of students to campus and what are the totals/percentages of students that will return at each phase? This is unclear.

[Quoted text hidden]

Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 1:22 PM

To: Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Audry Ortegon <aortegon@fabensisd.net>, Elizabeth Ramirez Nurse <elizaram@fabensisd.net>

Yes, that is correct - students who we are already attending will be allowed to return on Monday, October 12th - 273 students.

High School students (original 150) will be allowed to return on October 26th - closing for 2 weeks rather than 1 week due to increased positive cases and close contacts.

In two weeks (week of October 26th), if we have not met the thresholds of the 3 parameters discussed in the previous email, we will allow the following to attend (as indicated by the most recent survey).

Campus	Students Requesting On Campus for 2 nd grading period	Total Enrollment	% of Students Requesting on Campus for 2 nd grading period
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	249	588	42%
O'Donnell Intermediate	124	288	43%
Fabens Middle School	127	473	27%
Fabens High School	186	674	28%

Total: 686 students. (an additional 263 students).

[Quoted text hidden]

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Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil

Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 4:38 PM

To: Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Cc: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>, Michele Gonzalez <mbgonzal@fabensisd.net>, Audry Ortegon <aortegon@fabensisd.net>, Elizabeth Ramirez Nurse <elizaram@fabensisd.net>, Waivers <waivers@tea.texas.gov>

Hello,

In response to the LEA's request, an additional 3-week transition period is granted with the understanding that the district will begin phasing in additional students on campus for instruction who choose it as soon as possible but, per our phone conversation, no later than October 19th. As stated in the SY 2020-21 Attendance and Enrollment FAQ, the LEA's additional window extension plan must include increasing levels of allowed on campus instruction. The LEA should make every effort to monitor the local health conditions and adjust its phase-in plan to continually ensure that the maximum number of students who wish to have on-campus instruction are afforded the opportunity within the guidelines that the district determines to be most prudent for the health and safety of its community. Furthermore, this additional transition period will require board approval.

[Quoted text hidden]

Veronica Vijil <vvijil@fabensisd.net>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 1:03 PM

To: Terri Rodriguez <terrirod@fabensisd.net>

The response from TEA should also be added as back-up for the special board mtg.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Sincerely,
Veronica Vijil



Department of Public Health

MAYOR

Dee Margo

October 7, 2020

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Alexsandra Anello

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

District 4

Dr. Sam Morgan

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Isabel Salcido

District 6

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Henry Rivera

District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

Texas Education Agency
Office of the Commissioner
Attn: Hon. Mike Morath
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas, 78701

Commissioner Morath:

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) works in close partnership with Region 19 schools by providing them guidance, recommendations and support necessary to effectively respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

Our region is currently experiencing a concerning upward trend of COVID-19 infection as demonstrated by the current El Paso County data for positivity rate, cases per capita, and hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

We fully support Region 19 school districts' commitment to provide a safe environment for students, teachers, and staff, and firmly support their request for a waiver to assist them in preserving their funding and continued operations.

We understand there are many benefits of in-person instruction to all students, however, the risks associated with in-person instruction outweigh the benefits at this time due to the current pandemic in our region. Therefore, as the Health Authority of the El Paso City-County, I strongly recommended pausing the return of students to school for in-person instruction, and scaling-back the number of students currently receiving in-person instruction if the situation continues to worsen.

I thank you for your attention and consideration to these recommendations and trust we will receive a favorable response to our school districts' application for a COVID-19-related waiver.

Respectfully,

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH, FAAP
Local Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

Angela Mora – Interim Public Health Director

Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905
O: (915) 212-6564 | Email: Angela.Mora@elpasotexas.gov



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

CITY COUNCIL

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CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

SCHOOL SCALE BACK RE-OPENING FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) is committed to provide ongoing public health support to all school districts, public and private, and to all unincorporated schools in El Paso County and additional guidance for the 2020-2021 school year as in-person instruction evolves.

While there is not a single parameter that with high degree of certainty could tell the right time to safely return to school for in-person instruction, or scale back on those plans, few indicators will shed some light as how the pandemic is evolving in our community. The listed parameters below may serve as official guide for school districts to request extension of waivers to the Texas Education Agency for the continuation of funding for school activities.

The following parameters indicate a **moderate** community-wide spread.

- 7-day Rolling Average Cases Per Capita: Between 15 to 25 cases per 100,000 for ≥ 14 days
- 7-day Rolling Average Testing Positivity Rate: $\geq 7.5\%$ for ≥ 14 days
- 14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita
- COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations $\geq 15\%$ for 7 days

When the majority or all of the above-mentioned indicators are met, county-wide preventative measures to prevent further spread of the disease should be made in an effort to protect the health and well-being of students, teachers, and staff.

The suggested preventative measures to implement can include, but are not limited to:

- Avoid spectators for extracurricular activities
- Pause the reopening school plans and avoid bringing more children to schools for in-person school instruction.
- Follow other DPH guidance and recommendations for COVID-19 positive cases at schools that have children for in-person instruction.

Angela Mora – Interim Public Health Director
Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905
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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



Department of Public Health

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CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

The following parameters indicate a **high** community-wide spread of the disease and warrant further, stricter preventative interventions:

- 7-day Rolling Average Cases Per Capita: ≥ 25 cases per 100,000 for more than 14 days
- 7-day Rolling Average Testing Positivity Rate: $\geq 10\%$ for ≥ 14 days
- 14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita
- COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations $\geq 15\%$ for ≥ 14 days

The recommended preventative measures when the majority or all the above indicators are met are as follows:

- Scale down in-person instruction, switching to virtual school instruction model.
- Avoid spectators for extracurricular activities.
- No sports or extracurricular activities that may pose a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission.

More evidence-based guidance and recommendations will be provided as they become available. Rest assured that the DPH will stand by its commitment to preserve health by partnering with institutions like yours.

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH
Local Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

Angela Mora – Interim Public Health Director

Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

Working together, Fabens ISD creates a positive and lasting impact through multiple learning opportunities

Responses for 4-week extension waiver- Fabens Independent School District

- Specify the length of time the district is requesting
 - The length of time Fabens ISD is requesting is 4 weeks with the possibility of asking for an additional 4-5 weeks (end of 2nd grading period). The 4 weeks will begin if and when the hospitalization rate of 14-15% is sustained for 7 days. In the last two days, we have learned of 2 staff members and 4 students.
- Describe the phase-in plan you have for allowing those who wish to return on campus to do so and provide dates
 - A total of 3 parent surveys have been conducted for the purpose of determining the number of parents whose children will return F-2-F. The most recent survey opened on September 21, 2020 and final calls were made this week to record responses for all students. The week of October 5-9, 2020 was the district's intercession week. The new (2nd) grading period begins October 12, 2020 and ends December 18, 2020. Current survey results indicated that a higher percentage of parents would send their children back for F-2-F instruction.
- What is the current number of students on campus and what is that as a percentage of enrollment; please note the date of this data, the first date of any instruction, and the first date on-campus instruction was offered this school year.

First Date of Instruction: August 10, 2020

First Date of F-2-F (on-campus) Instruction: September 14, 2020

September 14-October 2, 2020 Campus Numbers:

Campus	Students On Campus	Total Enrollment	% of Students on Campus
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	144	580	25%
O'Donnell Intermediate	77	283	27%
Fabens Middle School	52	473	11%
Fabens High School	150	674	22%

- What is the current number of students that do not have access to the internet or a device.
We received enough devices (chromebooks) to distribute to all students (100%).

801 NE G Avenue, Fabens, TX, 79838 915-765-2600 (Main) 915-764-3115 (Fax)



FABENS HIGH SCHOOL

Fabens Independent School District P.O. Box 697 Fabens, Texas, 79838
915-765-2620 (School) 915-764-4953 (Fax)

We recently received our order of Verizon hot spots (operation connectivity) and are in the process of distributing them. According to our technology director, we believe we have enough to distribute to all students who indicated they need a hotspot. However, there are students who live in the remote part of the district – close to the Mexico border who may not be able to connect even with a hotspot – approximately 25 students.

- From the most recent survey of parents and guardians, what is the percentage of those who indicated they wanted on campus instruction (daily or partially), and what is the response rate of your survey; please note the date of the survey.

Response rate: 99%

The most recent survey indicates the following (as of October 7, 2020):

Campus	Students <u>Requesting</u> On Campus for 2 nd grading period	Total Enrollment	% of Students <u>Requesting</u> on Campus for 2 nd grading period
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	249	588	42%
O'Donnell Intermediate	124	288	43%
Fabens Middle School	127	473	27%
Fabens High School	186	674	28%

- What is the current rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations in your trauma service area; please note the date of this data.

October 7, 2020: 14%



FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

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- Please confirm that the LEA is requesting the waiver for weeks 9-12 of the LEA's instructional calendar and plans to utilize it only after the hospitalization rate reaches 14-15% for 7 consecutive days.

Fabens ISD is requesting the waiver for weeks (#11-14) or (#12-15) of our instructional calendar. El Paso has met most of the moderate community-wide spread parameters and thus will avoid bringing more children to schools for in-person instruction. Those who had already been attending F-2-F instruction will be able to continue.

In addition to the hospitalization rate, we are now using the most recent guidance and parameters from The City of El Paso Department of Public Health. Accordingly, the following parameters are:

The following parameters indicate a moderate community-wide spread.

- 7-day Rolling Average Cases Per Capita: Between 15 to 25 cases per 100,000 for ≥ 14 days
- 7-day Rolling Average Testing Positivity Rate: $\geq 7.5\%$ for ≥ 14 days
- 14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita
- COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations $\geq 15\%$ for 7 days

When the majority or all of the above-mentioned indicators are met, county-wide preventative measures to prevent further spread of the disease should be made in an effort to protect the health and well-being of students, teachers, and staff.

The suggested preventative measures to implement can include, but are not limited to:

- Avoid spectators for extracurricular activities
- Pause the reopening school plans and avoid bringing more children to schools for in-person school instruction.
- Follow other DPH guidance and recommendations for COVID-19 positive cases at schools that have children for in-person instruction.

Should the majority of the next set of parameters be met, Fabens ISD would revert to remote learning for the majority of the students except for the students who experience connectivity issues or individual considerations for other reasons. By reviewing our current data, if the spike continues at the same rate, this would impact weeks (#11-14) or (#12-15) of our instructional calendar.



FABENS HIGH SCHOOL

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The following parameters indicate a **high** community-wide spread of the disease and warrant further, stricter preventative interventions:

- 7-day Rolling Average Cases Per Capita: ≥ 25 cases per 100,000 for more than 14 days
- 7-day Rolling Average Testing Positivity Rate: $\geq 10\%$ for ≥ 14 days
- 14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita
- COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations $\geq 15\%$ for ≥ 14 days

The recommended preventative measures when the majority or all the above indicators are met are as follows:

- Scale down in-person instruction, switching to virtual school instruction model.
- Avoid spectators for extracurricular activities.
- No sports or extracurricular activities that may pose a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission.

In other words, if this threshold is not met, will the LEA will continue to allow all students (who so choose) on campus for instruction for weeks 9-12?

If the majority of the thresholds (3 out of 4) are not met, Fabens ISD will continue with the current number of students in class and follow the transition plan to move toward phased in F-2-F numbers at the parents' request (survey results sent with initial responses).

Please clarify whether the LEA is basing the hospitalization rate on the City of El Paso or on the DSHS Trauma Service Area.

According to the guidance from The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH), the district is basing the hospitalization rate on the City of El Paso Area. (DSHS typically 1-1.5% lower than City of EP).

Should the request be granted, what are the LEA's established timelines/dates for the increasing return of students to campus and what are the total/percentages of students that will return at each phase?

Similar to other Region 19 districts, we would move to Stages II-IV when the majority of the thresholds are met (3 of 4). The following is the timeline we would use to determine a safe return of students.



FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

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City/County of El Paso/Fabens ISD COVID-19 School Score Card Second 9-Weeks Transition Plan

Stage I/Phase I	Stage II/Transition Phase 2	Stage III/Transition Phase 3	Stage IV/Transition Phase 4
14-day upward trend in the 7-day rolling average cases per capita	Sustained decline in daily cases for 14 consecutive days, as reflected in 7-day rolling average	Continued decline or plateau for more than 14 consecutive days, as reflected in 7-day rolling average	Continued decline in cases met in stage 3 or plateau for more than 21 days, as reflected in 7-day rolling average
7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: greater than or equal to 10% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days	7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: less than 10% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days	7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: less than 7.5% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days	7-day rolling average testing positivity rate: less than 5% test conducted as positive for more than 14 days
7-day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Greater than or equal to 25 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days	7-Day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Less than 25 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days	7-Day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Less than 20 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days	7-Day Rolling Average Cases per Capita: Less than 15 cases per 100,000 people per day for more than 14 days
COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Greater than or equal to 15% for more than 14 days	COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Less than 15% for more than 14 days	COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Less than 10% for more than 14 days	COVID-19 percentage of hospitalizations: Less than or equal to 5% for more than 14 days

Stage II:

Campus	Students On Campus	Total Enrollment	% of Students on Campus
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	144	580	25%
O'Donnell Intermediate	77	283	27%
Fabens Middle School	52	473	11%
Fabens High School	150	674	22%

Stage III:

Campus	Total	Total Enrollment	% of Students Requesting on Campus for 2 nd grading period
Fabens Elementary School (PK-3)	249	588	42%
O'Donnell Intermediate	124	288	43%
Fabens Middle School	127	473	27%
Fabens High School	186	674	28%

Stage IV: A new survey would be sent to parents for updated percentages.

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FABENS HIGH SCHOOL

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Finally, in addition to the above parameters, we also received guidance from The City of El Paso Public Health for determining class, grade level, campus, and district closure. Since we only have 4 campuses, if we have to close 1 campus, the recommendation would be for us to close the district (25% of campuses=1 campus). Currently, we have 5 (or 6) active cases at the high school; 10 positive cases would constitute 5% of the campus. In this case, the closure would be for weeks 10-13 or 11-14.

CRITERIA FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE:		If contacts are not properly identified class* will need to close for 14 days.
6.	What are the criteria for closing a school?	5% school (may include students and teachers) positive = School should close for 14 days
7.	If a school is closed for in-person learning, when may it reopen?	Schools may reopen after 14 days and the following have occurred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning and disinfection Public health investigation Consultation with the local public health department The level of community transmission and other public health indicators will dictate if the school must conduct distance learning only and the amount of time.
CRITERIA FOR CLOSING A SCHOOL DISTRICT:		
8.	A superintendent should consider closing a school district if 25% of all schools in a district have closed.	
CRITERIA FOR REOPENING A SCHOOL DISTRICT:		
9.	Districts may typically reopen after 14 days, in consultation with the DPH. The level of community transmission and other public health indicators will dictate if the school must conduct distance learning only and the amount of time.	

I apologize for the lengthy responses, however, I wanted to address all possibilities.

**FABENS ISD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Date: 10/15/2020 Presented By: Board President

Subject: Adjourn Related Page(s) N/A

Action

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
ADJOURN**

If there is no further business the meeting is adjourned at _____ p.m.