

Santa Fe ISD Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Kevin M. Bott, Ed.D.



Dear Santa Fe students, staff, parents, and community,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a brief update about some recent topics regarding SFISD. As always, please reach out to us directly if you have any additional questions.

Social Media:

There have been a myriad of false narratives recently on social media pertaining to SFISD. Student TikToks have been particularly prevalent in light of the recent tragedy in Georgia. We cannot express strongly enough that local social media groups are NOT a legitimate avenue to learn facts and information about our public schools. We encourage you to follow SFISD directly on our legitimate pages. SFISD is committed to open, transparent communication with our students, staff, parents, and community. Please reach out to us directly if you have questions or concerns. We are here to help.

Student Attendance:

Social Media gossip has also had an adverse effect on school attendance. We encourage you to monitor your child's academic AND social/emotional health on a daily basis. Stay on top of your child's social contacts. This is a big one! Peer pressure and social media can lead to tardiness, skipping school, etc. Absenteeism ultimately has a negative impact on student learning and success. Research shows that:

- Missing 10% of school (18 days per year) equates to only 2 days per month. That adds up fast! This type of absenteeism can compound the effects of learning loss over time.
- Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Poor attendance in Kindergarten and 1st Grade can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of 3rd Grade.
- By 6th Grade, chronic absences have become a leading nationwide indicator that a student may drop out of school as early as 13-years-old. By 9th Grade, strong attendance habits can predict high school graduation rates even better than 8th Grade test scores.

When a student improves their attendance rate, they improve their academic prospects, opportunities for achievement, chances for graduation, and potential for long-term success outside of school.

School Safety:

SFISD has undergone multiple safety inspections, door audits, and surprise visits over the past two years in light of new school safety legislation. We are proud to announce that all of these third-party inspections have revealed NO FINDINGS or safety concerns. Our police officers and safety workers continue to do an outstanding job in actively monitoring our campuses and district activity, and our entire staff works to ensure a safe environment for ALL students. We are fortunate and blessed to have such an outstanding safety team in SFISD.

We live in a great community, and we want to continue serving all stakeholders with fidelity and transparency. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have more questions. Thank you for all your help and support.

Sincerely,
Kevin M. Bott, Ed.D.



Our Community. Our Legacy.

OUR FUTURE.

