



**Executive Office**  
Dr. Armando Aguirre  
Education Service Center Region 19  
6611 Boeing Drive  
El Paso, TX 79925

Website: [esc19.net](http://esc19.net)  
Phone: 915.780.1919  
Fax: 915.780.5070  
#WeR19



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### COVID-19 On Campus Attendance Plan

**El Paso, Texas (October 23, 2020)**—Given the rise of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, Region 19 school districts, in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and support from the El Paso Delegation and Health Authorities, initiated a plan to address the safety of students, teachers and school staff. School districts will continue to offer remote instruction for all families. School districts will mitigate on-campus instruction based on tri-county hospitalization information from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The hospitalization rates are categorized in four types of emergency percentage Zones which impact the day-to-day operations of school districts. The counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, and Culberson are currently in the Red Zone with a hospitalization rate of 32%.

All school systems in the region will take steps to implement this as a minimum framework no later than Monday, November 9, 2020. To assist with adoption, rapid COVID-19 testing will be made available for those districts to coincide with the start (or continuation of) on-campus instruction. Since we are currently in the Red Zone, any school system already offering on-campus instruction to priority students will have testing made available to them. As districts move into different Zones, testing will be made available for on-campus staff and students.

Funding, regardless of instructional delivery method offered, will continue.

Please visit our Education Service Center Region 19 website, [esc19.net](http://esc19.net), for additional information about school safety zones, testing and updates from the TEA. More details can be found at: <https://www.esc19.net/Page/1564>.

For additional details about this press release or ESC19 contact:  
Dr. Armando Aguirre, ESC Region 19 Executive Director, [aaguirre@esc19.net](mailto:aaguirre@esc19.net), 915-780-5052  
and/or visit [www.esc19.net](http://www.esc19.net).

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