

LANCASTER

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

422 S. Centre Ave.
Lancaster, TX 75146
(972) 218-1400
(972) 218-1401 FAX
www.LancasterISD.org



Dr. Elijah Granger
Superintendent

September 25, 2020

Hello Parents and Tiger Family,

We were scheduled to start school on August 17, 2020. Instead, the Board of Trustees and administration moved to put the health & safety of the students, parents, teachers, and staff first by moving the start date to September 8, 2020. In addition, we decided to engage in online virtual eLearning for the first four weeks. Now, we are at a pivotal point of weighing our options and to make decisions we think are in the best interest of the district, teachers, staff, students, and parents. The decisions we are making will have an impact on various stakeholders in different ways; therefore, these next decisions that we must make weigh heavily on me because they are not perfect solutions for everyone associated with Lancaster ISD. However, it is important for us to move in a direction in which we think is best for everyone as a whole.

Currently, Dallas County is reporting a 10% positivity rate. Furthermore, Dallas County's 14-day forecast, starting from September 22, projects an increase of 460 new COVID-19 infections per day by October 6. Given this trajectory, we may be experiencing a higher COVID positivity rate throughout the month of October. Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is still highly recommending virtual learning to mitigate the spread of the virus. Yesterday on a Zoom meeting with the Superintendents, Dr. Huang and Dr. Miles, with the DCHHS and Pediatric Board respectively, highly recommended putting the health and safety of the teachers, staff, students, and parents first by continuing in a virtual setting for the near future.

During this season of COVID, we are continuing to be flexible and make adjustments in alignment with data and the advice of the Dallas County Health & Human Services. At this time, given the challenges we are facing in the district, I will be making a recommendation to the Board tonight for an extension of virtual learning. This decision does not come easy because of the concerns I have for grades Pre-K-6, especially Pre-K-2. We will definitely have to redouble our efforts to close academic gaps as soon as we can safely do so this school year in person.

Lancaster ISD Vision:
Every Graduate A Success!

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On September 24, 2020, the board officially approved the 4-week virtual extension. We will implement a phased-in approach. Please see the phased-in plan below:

- September 28th – All district employees will report, as previously communicated, to their classrooms and buildings.
- October 5th–16th – Students will remain in the virtual setting in which we are currently in at this time. (Career and Technical Education Classes, Athletics, Band, and certain Fine Arts classes will continue to have face-to-face options). All staff will report, as previously communicated, to their classrooms and buildings on September 28th.
- October 12th – The district will provide a survey to our parents for the October 26th return to face-to-face or online options. The parents will have one week to complete the survey.
- October 19th – 23rd – Staff Development Week (No School for Students)
- October 26th – 30th – Phase-in Pre-K-6 for face-to-face and online options.
- November 2nd - All grades (Pre-K - 12) will have an option of face-to-face or online learning. Grades 9-12 will begin A/B Day Schedule of synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Thank you,

Dr. Elijah Granger

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elijah Granger'.

Lancaster ISD Superintendent

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