



## SANTA FE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.sfisd.org](http://www.sfisd.org)

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Superintendent of Schools



July 17, 2020

Dear SFISD Families,

As we navigate through the rapidly shifting changes and impact of COVID-19, SFISD remains committed to supporting our students, staff and families. We want to assure you that our focus continues to be on meeting the needs of every student in SFISD and providing a quality education where every child succeeds and is prepared for the next level, while maintaining a safe, healthy and supportive environment.

As you know, the onset of COVID-19 has yielded unprecedented challenges for districts across the state and nation. Please know that our teachers and staff are tasked with monumental shifts, but are committed to doing everything possible for our students and your children! We appreciate your ongoing support, understanding, and patience. We are committed to working together to make this a truly great and successful year for our staff, students and community!

While welcoming our students and staff safely back to our schools is our top priority, the District will continue to take precautions to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and the community. SFISD has determined that we will begin school on August 13, 2020, in a virtual format through September 4, 2020. At this time and unless conditions prohibit, we will plan to offer on campus instruction beginning September 8, 2020. We are sensitive to the challenges this presents for families, and will work to assist with solutions to the greatest extent possible. SFISD is also committed to providing access for every student in order to have resources necessary for successful participation in virtual learning.

During this transitional opening of school, students and staff will be participating in various levels of training in health and safety protocols as well as instructional requirements in a virtual environment. Throughout the year, it is likely that there will be certain situations that require shifts to virtual teaching and learning of students, classrooms, schools or the district. Therefore, this transitional opening will provide experiences and training to prepare staff, students and families with necessary resources and guidelines for successful participation in both virtual and on campus education.

Our SFISD Connecting the Future 2020 – returning back to school safely plan has been released, and is posted on our website ["Connecting The Future 2020"-Back To School Plan 2020-2021](#)

with information, protocols, and procedures for our return to school. Please understand these plans/procedures must allow for flexibility for changing circumstances or adjustments to better meet the needs of our staff and students.

Online Student registration will begin July 20, 2020, for all students. While we will all begin in a virtual environment, during registration you will be asked to select a preference for virtual or on campus instruction for your students beginning September 8, 2020, through the first nine week grading period. As a reminder, both on campus and virtual learning options are parent choice, and will require specific attendance and participation daily. On campus instruction will also include the safety protocols outlined in the SFISD Connecting the Future 2020 plan.

We are so appreciative of our Santa Fe ISD parents and staff and our greater Santa Fe community who have been determined throughout this pandemic to work together to ensure that we continue to improve and become stronger - as individuals and as a district. Thank you, as we will continue to seek your input and feedback and are very much looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back to our 2020-2021 school year very soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Leigh Wall,  
Superintendent of  
Schools Santa Fe ISD