

Dr. Eduardo Hernandez
Superintendent of Schools

- ★ Focus on Student Success
- ★ Focus on Students, Families and Community
- ★ Focus on Operational Excellence
- ★ Focus on Employees & Organizational Improvement
- ★ Focus on Financial Stewardship

March 22, 2021

Dear Edgewood ISD Students, Staff and Community,

Since the start of the pandemic, Edgewood ISD has been proactively working to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. As a district, we have been following the state and local mandates along with the guidelines from the Texas Education Agency to continue to fulfill our district mission of providing a high-quality learning experience in a safe learning environment.

Governor Abbott announced that starting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, masks will no longer be required, but their use is strongly encouraged. With full support from our Board, Edgewood ISD will continue to adhere to the safety protocols that are currently in place and outlined in the District's [COVID 19 Preparedness Plan](#) including the use of face masks.

As we return from Spring Break and advance to the end of the year, our goal is to ensure student academic success which requires more students to return to in-person instruction. The shift to in-person instruction will begin with students that are struggling academically or are not engaging in virtual lessons. The district is in the process of identifying those students and notifying the parents when their children can expect to report to campus. We know that in-person instruction provides the most benefits for our students and careful consideration was given to the following during the decision-making process and design of the transition action plan:

- Some remote students this year have had an increase in absence and failure rates.
- Student engagement is best addressed through in-person instruction especially for students that do not have adequate access to adult support at home and/or a stable learning environment.
- Many research-based practices, techniques, programs, and services are proven to be most effective when provided in-person.
- In order to evaluate, build rapport, and intervene effectively on behalf of students with significant social and emotional needs that happen outside of the school setting, school staff need to see the students face-to-face and interact with them every day.
- In addition to more engaging learning opportunities, in-person students will have access to counseling services and food support. Although the district has continued providing these services to virtual students, it is difficult to reach all who are in need in a virtual setting. With a significant number of students experiencing lower socioeconomic conditions, it is necessary to provide consistent support services.

Please be aware that Edgewood ISD remains focused on the health and safety of students and staff. We now have 1,064 of our employees vaccinated and 342 to be vaccinated over the next week. In addition, the enhanced safety protocols will continue, including:

- Face masks will be worn by all students, staff, and visitors;
- Cleaning and sanitation of high touch surfaces, door handles, railings, and common areas.
- Social distancing;
- Weekly COVID19 testing for all students and staff;
- Offering COVID19 vaccines to staff as more doses become available; and
- DrOwl screening process for all guests visiting the district.

Edgewood ISD community, we appreciate your continued support of our district and the protocols in place. Our families, students, and staff have been resilient over the course of one of the most challenging years. I am so grateful to serve our EISD community and as always, it is an honor to be your superintendent.



Dr. Eduardo Hernández