

Big Spring Independent School District

Administration Office

Jay McWilliams, Superintendent



To the Parents and Guardians of Big Spring ISD Students:

October 12, 2020

Our administration leadership team has been reviewing remote learning students and looking at their academic performance, attendance data, and speaking with campus principals and teachers. Discussions have revealed that the concept of remote learning has not been successful for the majority of our students, and the added burden of a full-scale instructional system on our teachers as also been extremely difficult to sustain. At the end of the first grading cycle over 60% of our remote learners are failing one or more classes. We also have many of our remote learners that are not meeting the TEA mandated 90% attendance rule, even after repeated phone calls from our campus leaders. We believe it is time for those students who are failing academically or who have excessive absences to return to school for face to face instruction. We are accountable for the educational growth of all students, and we truly believe there is no substitute for an in-person, on campus learning experience. Those remote learning students who have been successful in their academics and attendance will be allowed to continue to learn virtually. Our teachers and staff at Big Spring ISD have worked extremely hard to ensure that our students have had all the tools necessary to succeed in their learning, both virtually and face to face.

On Monday, October 12, 2020, the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees approved eliminating the option for remote online learning for those students who are currently failing academically, or who have excessive absences. (Under TEA attendance mandates) Our staff and principals will be reaching out to those students who need to return to campus for in-person learning. Beginning Monday, October 19, 2020, students will need to choose from the following options to comply with state compulsory attendance education laws:

- Come to school for on campus, face-to-face instruction
- Withdraw to homeschool
- Enroll in a private school
- Request a transfer to another school district that offers remote, online learning

We understand that student health during these times remains a concern for many parents, which is why Big Spring ISD will continue to follow proper health protocols to provide a safe learning space for our face-to-face students.

Students will be allowed to learn remotely only if they fall into on the following categories:

- Students who are being successful academically and are meeting attendance guidelines
- Students not in face to face attendance due to school closure
- Students with a documented medical COVID-19 diagnosis
- Students determined to be a COVID-19 close contact and asked to quarantine
- Students with a medical diagnosis of Flu, Strep, etc., that would create absences for 3 or more days

Our administrators, teachers, and staff look forward to the opportunity to work with those students that will be returning to the classroom for in-person, face-to-face instruction. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (432) 264-3600 or email me at jmcwilliams@bsisd.escl8.net.

Sincerely,

Jay McWilliams
Superintendent
Big Spring ISD

"EXCELLENT TEACHING • EVERY STUDENT • EVERY DAY"

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