



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT BARRY EDWARDS

July 10, 2020

Good afternoon BISD families,

I wanted to reach out to you on this Friday to give you a brief update on our back to school plans.

A few weeks ago we surveyed our parents, teachers and staff, and our students, and we greatly appreciate everyone's participation! You can find the summary results on our website (at the link below). We also formed a back-to-school planning team made up of teachers, students, parents, campus principals, and district office staff. Nearly 70 people were invited to participate. We held our first meeting on June 25, our second meeting July 2, and our final one yesterday. This team did some great work, and I believe they have a healthy understanding of all we are grappling with as we try to create a safe reopening for students and staff. If you're interested in seeing the material we used to guide our discussion and conversation, please visit our [Back to School Planning website](#).

Given the TEA's most recent guidance, it seems clear we are looking at **two options** that parents will be able to choose for their students: **In-Person learning or Virtual Learning**. We are developing a comprehensive plan, and I look forward to sharing that with you very soon. You've been patient during this time, and on behalf of all of us who are working on putting the plan together, I sincerely appreciate that.

As I said to our staff last week, we have gone into this planning and decision making process knowing that we will make some people happy and others upset. Some will agree with whatever plan we create and others will disagree. I guess this is how most decisions go. I want to assure you that we truly are trying to do what's best for our students and staff. We truly are trying to make good, purposeful decisions that are grounded in all of the guidance we are taking in each day. And believe me, we are reading and considering it all -- from the TEA, local/state health authorities, the UIL, pediatrician's groups, and our friends and colleagues in neighboring districts. We are also considering all of your comments, as well as what our teachers have to say. In the end, I'm going to have to do what I think is best as your superintendent, and I hope you will trust me to do that.

Thank you for your support, patience and trust, your critical feedback, and mostly your partnership. Enjoy the weekend, stay safe and well!

Barry Edwards
Superintendent