



July 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Families:

First, thank you for choosing our District when deciding where is the best place to educate your children. These are rough times for all of us; the pandemic, the economy, and civil unrest are a lot to address. To add to the instability, our legislature met in a special session and reduced education funding. The Santa Fe Public Schools will see about \$1 million less due to the credit that will be taken against our CARES Act funding, and we anticipate at a minimum another \$1 million decrease. We won't know the full impact to our budget until we receive the final unit value, the basic building block that determines the allocation of state funding, from the Public Education Department (PED).

I recognize that re-entry and what it means for your family and your children are serious considerations for you. I know that many of you are very concerned about sending your children back to school, while others have to go to work and have childcare considerations and need their children in school as much as possible, and additional factors that are unique to each family.

We also have faculty and staff that have their own children in school, some have conditions and or their age that put them at risk and make returning to campus difficult. I am doing my best to address all of these needs as best we can. The latest PED guidance on re-entry and the presentation that I made to the Board of Education on June 30<sup>th</sup> are on our website sfps.info ---School Re-Entry Documents and FACQs. The FACQs will be populated next week.

It is important to me that you know that the safety, health, and well-being of your children, and faculty/staff are at the forefront of my decision making. Every decision I make I think about what if my adult children were working in our schools and my grandchildren were attending classes in our schools. Your children are my family, too! And their health, safety, and well-being will always be a top consideration.

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**Important note: On July 15th, a set of assurances is due to the PED on how the District will provide continuous learning opportunities, from hours of instruction, to how we will take attendance, to how we will ensure seniors graduate, etc. The models are not a critical part of the assurances, so we will continue to dialogue with you.**

**As I've said repeatedly, my goal is to be nimble enough to respond to the needs of our**

stakeholders. We have parents and faculty/staff who want remote only, we have some who want hybrid and some parents/families want their children in school full time, every day, because they have to be at work.

Our decision-making on the models being offered will be based on the survey results and guidelines for occupancy, which is either 6 feet of social distancing or 50% capacity. As you can see, trying to accommodate the needs of our employees and students is a huge challenge. It is my goal to offer options that will meet everyone's needs.

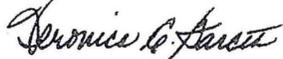
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I recognize that many questions are not addressed in the planning document. We will make FAQs available on the SFPS website starting next week.

Thank you for choosing the Santa Fe Public Schools. We are here to serve you!

Be well and stay well!!

Best regards always,



Veronica C. Garcia, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: SFPS Board of Education

