



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed

March 12, 2020

Richardson ISD Parents,

The global and national COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, and I am committed to keeping parents, staff and stakeholders informed about related developments and plans for our schools. Here are the latest decisions and impacts:

- As a social distancing precaution, effective immediately RISD is cancelling/postponing public meetings, events, at all schools, including UIL athletic contests, through spring break. Public meetings, events and UIL contests after spring break (starting March 23) are being evaluated with more information to come.
- Many parents have asked if we intend to cancel school after spring break due to COVID-19 concerns. At this point, our public health authorities have not recommended that schools be closed, and there has not been any cases of community transmission of COVID-19 in RISD. With that said, the situation is changing quickly and our staff is moving forward with preparations for the possibility of school closure.
- In preparation for the possibility of school closure, all RISD students in grades 3-12 will be assigned a device to take home with them over spring break. Students in grades 3-6 will take home an iPad, and those in grades 7-12 will take home their school-issued Chromebook. Information will be sent home with the devices that will allow students to easily connect with lessons in the event schools are closed after break and learning can continue from home. Students in grades PK-2 would also be able to learn from home in the event of prolonged school closure, but their lessons will be made available to parents online and sent via email, and a student device would not be necessary for our youngest learners.
- Much more information about learning from home will be sent to parents if our schools actually close. For now, we want the devices to go home with students just in case, and students should plan to bring the device back to school with them when school reopens. It is critical that parents ensure their child's school has an accurate email address, as that is a primary way we will communicate with you in the event of a school closure.

- Thank you to those who have shared their international travel plans with RISD. Since yesterday's message, the [CDC has significantly increased the number of Level 3 Travel Warning countries](#), and we strongly encourage parents still intending to travel, including cruises, to monitor that warning list. As a reminder, students travelling to a CDC Level 3 Warning country will not be permitted to return to an RISD school for 14 days, per guidelines from health authorities. If you completed an RISD travel survey and have since changed your travel plans, [please let us know by completing the form again](#) and choosing the updated option related to cancelled travel.

Please know that our team places the health and safety of our students and staff at the forefront of every decision being made. We will continue to assess and monitor the situation over spring break, and make decisions based on facts and the latest guidance, direction, and recommendations from public health authorities and our elected leaders.

As we head into break, please care for yourself, your family and those in our community by following the preventative measures as recommended by public health officials. I encourage you to monitor [RISD's COVID-19 page for the most up to date information](#) about how the global pandemic is affecting RISD.

Thank you for your feedback and partnership as we work to keep our students, employees and community safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeannie Stone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeannie Stone, Ed. D.
Superintendent