

Inspire Every Mind.

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Dear D11 Families,

The start to this school year will be unlike any other, however I am thrilled to welcome you and your family to the 2020-2021 academic year! We will begin the school year on Monday, August 24 with a hybrid model, targeting students with the greatest academic need based on data for levels of in-school support. The remainder of our students will be engaged in our remote learning platform. Our leadership continues to closely monitor the health data provided by El Paso County Public Health as we consider bringing more students back in person in the coming months as safely as possible. This could be a staggered approach to slowly introduce more groups of students back in person, but the decisions to bring students back in person will always be based on how well our county is doing in controlling the spread of the COVID virus.

There are student populations who will still need in-person services and supports that are not feasible to accomplish in an all remote learning environment, specifically students receiving special education support, English Language Learners, TITLE/Read Act supported students, gifted and talented learners, and preschool students (who, under current guidance, are classified as essential childcare). Additionally, there may be other programmatic needs requiring school access, such as AP, IB, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses necessitating laboratory time as part of programmatic requirements. These areas are where some hybrid options will be built into schedules at the individual school level. More detailed schedules will come from your student's school administration, case workers, and teachers.

As always, we strongly believe in-person learning has significant benefits for students, not only academically, but also for social-emotional development and overall health and well-being. The desire of the District's Board of Education and leadership teams is to return to in-person learning as much as is safely possible and as soon as possible. We will continue to be in consistent communication with you as we begin the school year and throughout the rest of this year. Our commitment to the D11 mission remains strong as we dare to empower the whole student to profoundly impact our world. Thank you.

Yours in Partnership,

Dr. Michael J. Thomas, Superintendent
Colorado Springs School District 11