



ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Becky McCutchen, Superintendent

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"Alpine ISD will provide our children with learning experiences to be responsible, productive, and successful citizens of an ever changing world."

October 22, 2020

Re: Online Learning

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Wednesday, October 21, 2020, the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees approved to eliminate the voluntary option for online learning. This includes current synchronous and asynchronous online learning platforms. Beginning Monday, November 2, 2020, students will need to choose from one of the following options to comply with state compulsory attendance education laws:

1. Attend school for On Campus, Face-to-Face instruction
2. Withdraw to Home School
3. Enroll in a Private School
4. Request transfer to another school district that offers remote, online learning
5. Enroll your child in an online school:
 - a. TTU K-12 (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/>)
 - b. K-12 online (www.k12.com) - free for grades 3-12

***If you choose not to attend school for on campus, face-to-face instruction, all school district property, including Chromebooks, I-Pads and hotspots need to be returned to the campus by Monday, November 2, 2020.**

Student Concerns:

Over the last ten weeks of school, Alpine ISD has closely monitored the attendance and academic progress of our online learners. The majority of our online student learners have shown higher rates of absenteeism and failing grades than their peers attending school face to face. The majority of our current online students are in danger of falling significantly behind in math and reading and risk not being promoted to the next grade level.

COVID-19 Concerns:

Currently, Brewster County is reporting 25 active cases of COVID-19 in the county. During the first 10 weeks of school, Alpine ISD has reported only four positive cases of COVID-19 on our campuses. We believe the school district's COVID-19 mitigation measures are working to provide a safe learning environment for all students. Alpine ISD will continue to require masks when appropriate, social distance when needed, hand sanitizer stations, frequent hand washing, disinfect multiple times per day, and fog disinfect each building weekly. These protocols will remain in place as long as needed to keep our students and staff safe.

After the return of all students to face-to-face instruction, Alpine ISD will provide synchronous and/or asynchronous online learning to students only in the following circumstances:

- 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 required to quarantine;
- Students with a medical diagnosis of Flu, Strep, etc....that will create absences for three or more days.

We truly believe there is no substitute for an in-person, on campus learning experience. If you have questions regarding your child's return to campus or the process of choosing one of the other options listed above, please contact your child's campus administrator listed below.

Alpine Elementary School
Mr. Verl O'Bryant
432-837-7730

Alpine Middle School
Mr. Cody Patterson
432-837-7720

Alpine High School
Mr. Justin Gonzales
432-837-7710

Sincerely,

Becky McCutchen
Superintendent of Schools