

SCC Campus Reps Q & A

Questions Received the Week of 1/11–15/21

Porter

1. We have experienced many F2F students' families choosing to do school online for a period of time for various reasons, such as going out of town for vacations. Some parents choose to quarantine their students on their own for various reasons as well, such as in preparation for a vacation so that they do not have to cancel their trip. We understand that students will be quarantined if they are close contact or if a family member is sick/being tested for COVID-19, but many are doing so for other reasons. This results in F2F students being home off and on and teachers having to adapt each time. In addition, many students are going on vacations and still earning "perfect attendance" due to completing some amount of work online. **Is there any way for BISD to address this and prevent F2F students from going online when it's not related to COVID-19 protocol?**

- A. The Birdville ISD Instructional Plan submitted to TEA and communicated to the parents stipulates:

If a face-to-face student is marked absent at the designated attendance time, but completes enough online work to be considered engaged by 11:59 p.m., the teacher marks the student present-asynchronous remote by the end of the next school day.

Unfortunately, regardless of why the student is absent, if they complete enough online work as specified above, we must record them as "present-asynchronous."

2. Elementary teachers are required to give Art grades on report cards, but we do not teach Art, nor are we in the classroom during Art due to PLCs. **Can Art teachers be responsible for telling classroom teachers which students earn an E, S, N, or U each 6 weeks?**

- A. We recommend all students begin with an **E** and the art team will report any reductions at the end of each six weeks. Reductions would mostly be related to discipline issues or purposeful lack of participation.

Snow Heights

- 3. In thinking about the 2021–2022 school year, what is the district’s plan in regards to online learning? Will online learning be terminated or offered to families? Will teachers be expected to teach both platforms if online learning is a possibility for our students? Will these decisions be made prior to teachers signing a contract for next school year?**
- A. The current online asynchronous learning model is based on what was required by the TEA for districts to receive funding during this pandemic. Currently, we do not know what will be required for districts next year. Our hope is that this current situation improves so that school returns to a face-to-face instructional model. What teachers will be required to do next year will depend on whether the current situation improves to the extent that asynchronous is not necessary. As we continue to plan for next year, we are in constant contact with governmental agencies such as the TEA and the CDC. We are currently preparing budgets for next year. This process includes examining the resources that have been purchased and will need to be continued for our students and teachers to take advantage of the technology that has been purchased.

Richland Elementary

- 4. Is there any chance we could get one (at home) charger per family so that we do not have to thread and unthread the cords every time we want to have students take computers home over a break or a possible snow day?**
- A. We sought pricing and external chargers came in at \$49.72. Even with a discount for purchasing off-brand units in bulk the cost is \$30 per unit. The funding to provide an extra charger per family was not something included in the budget when the 1:1 program was designed. We surveyed other districts and found that they are charging students, parents, or campuses for extra external chargers, at cost, and we would be happy to pursue this option further in BISD.