

SCC Campus Reps Q & A

Questions Received the Week of 4/15

Walker Creek

- 1. Will BISD either give teachers time next year to complete our safe school training during our PD days before school starts or allow us to use this training towards our Flex days?**

A. At this time mandatory Safe Schools training cannot be used for flex days. With the half days we have added to the 2021–22 Instructional Calendar (such as September 24, 2021), this gives staff an opportunity to complete the trainings.

Birdville High

- 2. Why did our district choose to have non tested (high school) students come to school during PSAT testing and EOC tests instead of having them be remote asynchronous for the day like districts around us did (Keller, HEB)? If it's a funding issue, what did they do differently than we did to be able to do that with their students, didn't TEA provide school districts with remote asynchronous days when needed? We've worked hard to maintain social distancing and contact tracing but that seems impossible when half the school arrives at 9:30 and reports to the auditorium or the cafeteria. Having those students be remote for the day would have provided more staff for testing rooms as well.**

A. Districts may receive hold harmless funds from the State for the second semester if their face-to-face students, as a percentage of all students, exceeds the percentage at the October 2020 snapshot date. Birdville ISD's face-to-face percentage at snapshot was 64.8 percent. At the time of the waiver decision, the District's face-to-face percentage was only 65.1. There was no guarantee the number would increase for the sixth six-week period. With the various testing days in the sixth six-week period, Administration was concerned that moving students across the District to remote learning during testing days would jeopardize the hold harmless funding of approximately \$3.3 million. There was also concern that some parents might choose remote learning during the sixth six-week period due to comments received about the District's mask policy. Many districts in our area had a much lower number of face-to-face students in October than Birdville. Those districts have also raised their face-to-face instruction significantly since October.

Porter

- 3. I would like to know why the process for getting a sub in the system takes 6-8 weeks for a newly retired former BISD teacher?**

A. In accordance with TRS regulations, the timeline is based on the Retiree sitting out one calendar month after they are reported to TRS. Reports are sent to TRS at the end of each month. So, it depends on the day of the month the Retiree stops working. Under best case scenario, the least amount of time would be five weeks.

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Example (approx. 8 weeks):

- Retiree stops working March 6th
- Retiree is reported to TRS March 31st (always at the end of the month)
- Retiree sits out calendar month of April (the remainder of March did not count)
- Retiree is eligible to start May 1st
- The preceding is based on TRS guidelines so it is important that retirees contact TRS for the latest answer on when and how they can work after retiring.

Francisco

4. Why are our desktops being taken?

- A.** Moving to mobile workstations has been part of the 2018 bond program since its inception. Technology deployed the current desktops as part of the 2014 bond program, and at the time, many questioned why Technology didn't move teachers and staff to mobile workstations. These desktops are going on six and seven years old. We work to maintain a 5-year replacement cycle for technology devices in the district. This change of pulling the desktops was going to occur in the spring/summer/fall of 2020, but the COVID pandemic threw a major wrench into our rollout plans and schedule.

5. Why was there not a survey distributed to provide feedback before making this decision?

- A.** Technology did conduct surveys and received feedback from multiple sources back in 2018 when the bond program was put together. We are also formalizing this process moving forward by developing a new Tech Steering Committee in BISD made up of students, parents, teachers, administrators, department staff, and community members. This group will collaborate with Technology on future bond programs and all major technology decisions in the district. The Committee won't necessarily be picking one device over another. They will collaborate with our technical staff on vision development and ensure our goals and resources align with the District's instructional mission and our students' and staffs' needs. We have an internal team that started working on the development about a month ago and will be announcing and advertising the application process on 4/16. It will be a two-year commitment and consist of multiple meetings throughout the year with our technology team.

6. Will we still have access to our U drive?

- A.** Many have already migrated to their District Google Drive account or their District Microsoft OneDrive account; both are secure. If you haven't started using your Cloud storage yet, our recommendation is to do some spring cleaning on the files. If you have junk and old files in your U drives that you don't access or use anymore, there is no need to maintain them in the Cloud.

Our goal is December 2021 to take the U Drives offline. Once this project is complete, the district will stop purchasing and maintaining expensive servers and hard drive storage solutions for personal U Drives.

7. Will we receive Microsoft surfaces in place of Chromebooks?

- A.** Teachers already received high-powered Chromebooks with faster processors and more RAM than the current windows desktops in their classrooms. The Chromebooks are also mobile and can be taken to meetings or even used at home.

8. Will we be able to use our LAN with our main device or will we all have to rely on Wi-Fi?

- A.** Teachers will be receiving a docking station that will allow them to use their Chromebook as their main workstation with their full-size keyboard/monitor/mouse and will allow it to connect to the wired network. In the 2014 bond, the District installed dense Wi-Fi in all instructional areas. There really should be no difference in network performance, whether on the LAN or Wi-Fi, when connected to the correct Wi-Fi network (BISD-5G). If there are instances where teachers run into problems with the Wi-Fi, we need some details. Get on the Wi-Fi and browse to [BISD Speedtest](#), run a test, and send the results to us in a helpdesk ticket. We also need to know the area/room details.

Several articles have been added to our helpdesk knowledgebase that will help teachers who have not transitioned yet to their Chromebook. On the [BISD Helpdesk](#) homepage there is a Chromebook button right at the top of the list.