



CHINLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 24

Office of the Superintendent

February 10, 2021

Dear Chinle Unified School District Families:

We are pleased to continue offering learning opportunities during the 2020-21 school year! We hope your child has successfully connected virtually with his/her teachers and classes. If you are experiencing any challenges getting your child connected, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school for support.

I would like to provide some detailed information regarding the requirement of public schools to provide what is known as on-site support.

- Governor Ducey released Executive Order 2020-41 that requires all public school districts to offer a safe and productive on-site learning environment for students with the greatest need. Subsequent executive order 2020-51 set forth a deadline beginning August 17, 2020.
- Waivers of this requirement are available if a tribal sovereign nation issues a "stay-at-home" order impacting an entire school district or charter school on or adjacent to a reservation.
- Under this option Chinle Unified requested, and was approved for a series of waivers that have delayed this required start date for on-site support.
- Our existing waiver expires on February 26, 2021, and was approved based on the current Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency Order 2021-002 which states an expiration date for the stay at home order of February 15, 2021.
- We will not be approved for another waiver of the on-site support requirement unless we can show a written Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency Order with an extended date range for the stay at home order.
- In the event that the stay at home order is not extended, and we are unable to be approved for another waiver, we are revisiting our contingency plan for on-site support.
- While it is required that public schools provide on-site support opportunities, *the on-site support services are optional for parents/guardians to send their children.*

As part of this contingency planning, your child's school staff will reach out directly to parents/guardians of students that have been identified as needing additional support to communicate our on-site support program, and to inquire about interest in on-site support services. There will be group size limitations on buses and at schools in order to maintain health and safety considerations. Scheduling may not permit all available support services to occur on-site daily to every student.

While on site, students are not with a teacher in-person but instead, in a supervised designated learning space. To ensure the safest environments possible, spaces are designed to adhere to social distancing, students and staff will be required to wear masks, and frequent sanitation schedules will occur throughout the day. Onsite services will be available each day, Monday through Friday and be open the same hours as we provided physical instruction during the 2019-2020 school year. If your child has been

identified as needing additional support *and you have agreed to send your child*, a school staff member will reach out to you directly to communicate your child's daily schedule.

Upon entering campuses, students and staff are required to respond to a brief set of screening questions designed to identify known COVID-19 symptoms, and receive a temperature check. Per CDC guidelines, any child with responses consistent with known COVID-19 symptoms, or with a temperature of 100.4 or greater, will remain in an isolated area until a parent/guardian is able to pick them up from school. Any student that is sick or not feeling well must stay home. Staff will follow the same guidelines, and are required to stay home if sick, or leave campus if displaying symptoms or a fever. Please note that visitors to campus beyond the administration office will not be allowed.

If your child is identified as needing on-site support, and you opt to send your child, please be aware of the following:

- Parents will be asked to sign a parent/guardian Acknowledgement and Disclosure Form or a Waiver, Release, and Assumption of Risk Form relating to the COVID-19 virus
- Students will be expected to **physically/social distance** at all times with a minimum of 6ft between themselves and others.
- Students and staff will be expected to **wear face masks** (unless it has been determined the student cannot wear a face mask for medical reasons). Parents are requested to provide a clean facemask daily.
- Students will be expected to **bring school assigned laptops** with them each day and **wear headphones** to minimize noise and disruption to other students learning. Schools have a limited number of headphones available for those in need.
- Students will be expected to abide by the rules in the student handbook while on campus.

A separate letter from the District's Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Department will be sent to ESS families to address on-site learning opportunities for students eligible for special education and related services.

As Chinle Unified School District continues to monitor COVID-19 conditions, please know we are committed to following Navajo Nation Department of Health, Arizona Department of Health Safety's (ADHS) public health benchmarks as well as guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and our local health officials to determine when and how we will reopen fully for in-person learning opportunities. Please reach out directly to your child's school if you have any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website at www.chinleusd.k12.az.us for continued updates.

Sincerely,



Quincy Natay
Superintendent