

**SAN FELIPE DEL RIO**  
*Consolidated Independent School District*  
**Office of the Superintendent**



P.O. DRAWER 428002

DEL RIO, TEXAS 78842

March 4, 2021

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you today to share some thoughts on two very important issues: state assessments and returning to in-person instruction.

First, our spring assessments, STAAR and TELPAS are fast approaching. TEA announced in January that in order to participate in STAAR and TELPAS assessments this spring, a student must be present at school. Participating in a STAAR assessment in grades 3-8 does not affect promotion or retention decisions for the 2020-2021 school year. However, our high school students face a different challenge. In order to meet graduation requirements for 2021, students will still be required to participate and pass their STAAR End-of-Course assessments. As educators who share your goals as parents, we know that having as many students as possible participate in STAAR and TELPAS assessments this spring will allow us to better prepare and provide necessary intervention for any students that need extra support over the summer months. Participation in testing this spring will also give us the information we need to confidently plan for accelerated learning for students who will not require review or remediation. In the coming days you will receive more information from your child's campus regarding details for these two important assessments.

To address all safety measures for the upcoming test sessions, we have planned several strategies to allow for your child to be in a safe and comfortable environment. Students will be appropriately distanced from other test takers and tests will be administered to smaller groups on campus on scheduled dates and at specific times. By allowing for an extended testing window, our plan will ensure that extra space is afforded to your child.

Secondly, as our school district's Superintendent and as a parent, I share your worry about the loss of learning that has accumulated this past year. Like you, I look forward to resuming regular school activities and hope that will be in the upcoming academic year. Along with my staff, we believe that the best way to ensure a smooth transition into the 2021-2022 school year is to implement a strategy that would include returning most of our students to school and a sense of "normalcy" before the end of the current academic year. Governor Abbott's recent executive order lifting the current mask mandate indicates his belief that we are safe enough to resume most normal activities. Whether one agrees or disagrees with his decision, ***it should also be noted that the San Felipe Del Rio CISD will continue enforcing the mask mandate and will continue to follow all recommended safety protocols.***

Knowing that the health and academic well-being of your child is of the highest concern, I encourage you to support your child's participation in the upcoming STAAR/EOC test administration. Our campus administrators and their staff are available to answer any questions you may have regarding your child's testing assignments.

This has been an unprecedented time for all of us but, most especially, for our students. On behalf of the entire school district, I thank you all for your invaluable support and patience throughout.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carlos Rio'.

Superintendent of Schools