

Rep. Udall Town Hall on the 2020-2021 School Year (7/17/2020)

- Executive Order 2020-44
 - Delay of **in-person** classes until August 17, 2020.
 - Input: There is confusion from parents about school dates; clarify that physical operations are delayed until August 17 but schools may began virtual teaching prior.
 - Requires schools that begin school year prior to August 17 to submit a distance learning plan to ADE prior. Does not require ADE to grant approval to begin distance learning. Plans are required by August 14.
 - Requires ADE to conduct an analysis of the need to waive number of school days and submit that analysis to the Governor, Speaker, President and State Board of Education by August 31, 2020.
 - Currently: there is no waiver for the 180- or 200-day school calendar.
 - Schools can delay benchmark testing until the first six weeks after in-person classes are allowed to begin.
 - Schools that choose to implement distance learning are considered as an AOI for funding purposes.
 - AOI students funded at 85-95% of the base support level.
- Input: There is concern about funding AOI students at 85-95%.
 - Governor allotted \$200 million for the Enrollment Stability Grant Program which guarantees 98% of a school's 2019-2020 enrollment or their 40th day ADM "as enhanced by funding online learners up to the same level as in-person peers."
 - ADE guidance: Reduction may be reimbursed with monies from the Enrollment Stability Grant Program.
 - Funding contingent on if the school provides in-person option for students after August 17.
 - Concern: Schools are not equipped to handle 20%+ of students returning to physical school locations. Staff shortages, unable to follow CDC and AZDHS guidelines.
 - Concern: Teachers are hesitant to come back. Some rethinking contracts, others refusing. Serious concern for their safety.
 - Concern: Some schools are offering in-person modes of instruction, others are not but fear losing funding eligibility and facing serious budget shortfalls due to decreased student enrollment.
 - Governor's Office: In-person operations do not necessarily mean at a school site. Can be through partnerships with local facilities, Boys and Girls Club, etc. Loosely defined to give schools flexibility.
 - Concern: Parents may have to or will take advantage of in-person option. Some schools concerned with 20% of students returning while others predict a 65%+ return rate.
 - ADE guidance: All brick and mortar public LEAs must keep a physical building open for students to attend in-person if necessary. Schools where students attend school in-person while the school uses a distance or hybrid model are not required to provide in-person instruction. LEAs can partner with community-based organizations.

- Attendance format will be reported. Students not present virtually/physically will be counted as absent and 10+ absences will still be in effect, consequently affecting funding.
 - ADE: Percent of in-person and percent of virtual students will be recorded.
 - ADE: Attendance may include communication with teacher via Zoom, phone, participation in virtual class, daily assignments that are submitted, etc.
- Concern: How are hybrid models going to be addressed for funding/attendance purposes?
 - ADE: Schools must track percentage of time spent in distance learning, as well as absences. Distance learning percentage of time will be reported in aggregate for students, except those who qualify for Group B weights (they will be reported in aggregate for the percentage of time in distance learning by Group B weight).
- Executive orders do not require transportation to be provided.
 - ADE is encouraging that transportation be provided for students that need to physically attend a brick and mortar facility.
- Input: SPED students are being educated in-person in TUSD.
 - Dr. Casteel: CUSD still addressing SPED students based on IEP. Reconvening IEP teams and determining best way to deliver instruction. May use small groups to prioritize students with extremely special needs.