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## Dallas isd school closures

Home Calendar En espa'ol This page is currently unavailable. Page 2 But don't worry, we regularly update this page so that you'll be the first to find out if your school is closing or will have delays due to bad weather. In the meantime, check the local weather to see if things will change. The Dallas Independent School District (DISD) is mulling the idea of lengthening the school year into the third week of July to explain the impact the school district's response to coronavirus can have on academic performance. The task force's presentation at a DISD briefing on Thursday said the closure of COVID-19 schools could have a devastating impact on student performance. Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa said the district's students are not very good at adapting to virtual learning. Even for some previously very successful students, they could lose a year. If previously successful students lose a year, it is important, Hinojosa said. When you take students who don't have an agency, that slide can be much bigger. But I don't want to bar anyone until we get the full report. The Superintendent added that as it relates to online learning, everyone is making an effort, but the results aren't quite there. Many North Texas students, including many who visit DISD campuses, have returned to personal instruction in recent weeks. School district officials said they would seek public input through focus groups and surveys, though trustee Joyce Freeman indicated she was concerned the public would not have as much say as they should. The additional time will not be mandatory and compulsory attendance will only apply to the basic school year. Presiding trustee Justin Henry warned that the district should avoid overwhelming educators and families who are already under stress from the events of the year. As we develop these plans, I hope that we are also looking at the social and emotional side. I mean, you don't want to just push, push, push and break, Henry said. We know that we have to close the gap, but at the same time you don't want to break individuals, families, systems, and schools by applying too much pressure. Read the DISD presentation Reducing Learning Loss below. Disclosure: Unlike almost all other media outlets, the Texan is not required to have any special interests, does not apply to any type of state or federal funding, and relies solely on its readers for financial support. If you want to be one of those for whom we are financially responsible, click here to subscribe. Free biweekly commentary on current events by Connie Burton. Hayden Sparks is a Texan reporter in Dallas. During the school year, he coaches high school competitive speech and discussion, and has participated in public theater and politics. A native of Texas, was a delegate at the 2016 Texas Republican Convention. He is on his way to get a bachelor's degree in psychology from Liberty University. In his own Time, Hayden is known to stroll around the neighborhood while listening to casual music on Spotify. Home Calendar En Espa'ol 0 Schools earn National Blue Ribbon Awards More than 0 Thousand Student Computers Deployed IT to Support Virtual Learning More Than 0 Thousand Dallas ISD Employees Receiving Anti-Racism Training More Harris County Officials on Monday recommended that school districts across the Houston area refrain from bringing students back for personal learning until at least October. A message from U.S. District Judge Lina Hidalgo and Harris County Public Health Dr. Umair Shah did not issue a mandate, unlike what other county health officials did, and instead strongly urged schools to follow new provisions the Texas Education Agency allows for an 8-week online waiver of instruction. We continue to encourage all members of our community to stay at home, with the exception of basic activities. The sooner we get the virus under control and bring the down curve, the sooner schools will be able to open safely and stay open, Hidalgo wrote in a letter to school inspectors, which also recognizes that schools provide many social services, such as very necessary food assistance to many low-income families. Tarrant County and the cities of Arlington and Burleson instructed Tuesday that public and non-religious private schools cannot reopen for personal tuition until September 28, according to a joint order from Dallas County Health and Human Services. The Dallas County mandate, which prohibits schools from reopening to on-campus, face-to-face instructions through Labor Day, has been one of a series of orders from local health officials since Texas announced schools had to reopen classes last week. Public health experts say opening school buildings in areas where coronavirus is spreading rapidly will exacerbate exposure to the virus. Some of the largest urban and suburban school districts in the state, including the 155,000-student Dallas Independent School District, will need to keep their classrooms closed as a result of that order. Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa told local reporters earlier this week that he was considering alternatives, including pushing a start date later than August 17 to prepare for a fall during a spike in the virus. After the Texas Education Agency said last week it requires public schools to Personal training five days a week for all students who want it, El Paso and Laredo health officials were among the first to issue mandates keeping local schools fully virtually until August. At the time, it was unclear whether government officials would rescind them. But TEA TEA The Texas Tribune on Wednesday said it would continue to fund schools that kept their buildings closed because of a local health mandate as long as they offer deleted instruction to all students. Last week, the state's leadership also said school districts had only three weeks at the start of the year to stay fully virtual and get their safety plans ready before bringing more students to campus. But after educators loudly criticized the guidance, state officials said they would allow more flexibility for school districts that want to stay fully virtual for longer. The revised guidance is expected to be released Friday, Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morat said in a phone call with superintendents Thursday afternoon. While government orders are on the move, local health and education officials are developing their own measures in response to high COVID-19 rates, hospitalizations and deaths in their regions. Travis County banned in-person classes at public and private schools during Labor Day. Hidalgo County health officials said Tuesday that local schools must keep their classrooms closed until September 27. Other school districts have decided to close their classrooms even without local health mandates. Houston ISD announced Wednesday that it will begin the year with six weeks of virtual classes immediately after Labor Day, subject to changes if state or local officials issue other indications. Stacy Fernandez and Juan Pablo Garnham contributed to this report. Correction: An earlier version of this story misspelled when Dallas County health officials announced the required class closure. It was Thursday. Thursday.

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