

July 9, 2020

Dear District 14 Parents and Guardians,

This summer continues to be a challenging time in our community as we prepare for the reopening in September. We are building on the lessons learned and strengths of the past several months in remote learning. I want to celebrate the school leaders and their communities for making the remote learning of the past school year an extraordinary effort under difficult circumstances. The schools have shared that the success of remote learning was partly because of your support and partnership, and I thank you for your dedication and commitment. Our district has pulled together to support each other, from principals who have made provisions to support their families in need, to the students and staff that have lifted their voices to speak out for social justice for a better, anti-racist society and schools.

I also want to thank our CEC 14 for partnering with the schools and the district and always allocating time and space for community voice to be lifted at their meetings. I appreciate the members' advocacy on behalf of all the families and students of District 14 and their help and assistance with resources they have been sharing with them.

I am aware that the coming school year's uncertainty provides angst for you as you try to anticipate and envision the Fall balancing the school and work schedules. Yesterday, the principals and you heard from the Mayor and the Chancellor about the plans and models for reopening in September. I am meeting with our principals today to discuss the next planning steps. You will hear soon from your Principals and Parent Coordinators about your involvement in planning, a critical part of the Deeper Parent Empowerment principle. There are no perfect solutions, but we promise we will continue to find the best possible strategy to reopen given the many challenges we face.

On the district level, I will invite you to join me for a conversation to hear more about your concerns, questions, and ideas to move forward. This meeting will be scheduled the week of July 20 and you will receive an invitation to join.

This pandemic has been relentless and has affected our community. The priority will always be the health and safety of the children, teachers, and staff of each District 14 school. To that end, we must keep in mind that all plans depend upon what progress our city and state continue to make against this pandemic. As a district, we will follow the guidelines and the policy of the Chancellor and the Department of Education and work with individual school communities.



**Department of  
Education**

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

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On behalf of all district principals, teachers, and staff, we thank you for your patience during this unprecedented time. We ask that you bear with us a little longer and partner with us as we work to construct a plan for September. Please be assured that the plans our schools roll out

will reflect the best possible opportunities for all students and families, given the health, safety, academic, and social-emotional objectives that guide our efforts every day.

My team and I hope you continue to enjoy a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer. Do not hesitate to reach out to us via email to share your thoughts and ideas, ask questions, and express concerns.

Yours truly,

*Alicja Winnicki*

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