

# Elko County School District



Central Administrative Office  
Telephone: (775) 738-5196 • Fax: (775) 738-0808  
P.O. Box 1012 • Elko, Nevada 89803

April 22, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Per Nevada Governor Sisolak's directive on April 21, 2020, all schools in Nevada will be closed and will continue distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. While we are extremely disappointed that we will complete the school year without seeing your children in person, we do have plans in place to meet this challenge.

You and/or your child should have already been contacted regularly by at least one of his/her teachers. Teachers will remain in contact with you and/or your child throughout the remainder of the school year. If you have not been contacted by a staff member from your child's school, it may mean that your contact information on file with the school is inaccurate. In that case please contact your school by phone.

The district's preferred method of delivering instruction will be to connect students and their parents to teachers over the internet using Google Classroom or Canvas. Google Classroom or Canvas is a streamlined, easy-to-use tool that helps teachers, students, and parents manage classwork. With Google Classroom or Canvas, educators can create classes, distribute assignments, send feedback, and see everything in one place. However, paper work packets will still be available for those families without adequate access.

Grading for all students will follow a "hold harmless" approach. "Hold harmless" means that grades recorded during distance learning will only be calculated into a student's final semester grade if they cause the grade to improve. Our goal during this time is to support student engagement and learning, while also being mindful of the unique challenges that this situation presents. Please reach out to your student's teacher, or any of our administrative team, if you have questions.

The only change in reporting format will be for students in Grades 3-8. Courses for those students will be graded under a Pass/Fail model for the 4th quarter.

Dual credit and online courses will follow the guidelines required for course credit. Dual credit courses have specific requirements beyond our control. Teachers will follow the guidelines provided by the dual credit institution so that our students remain eligible for college credit.

We are currently developing plans for the return of student personal items. Information will be communicated to students and families from each school site in the near future.

As community members and parents, we care deeply about the success of our students and families and are saddened that normal school operations have been disrupted in this manner. We are working diligently to support our students and each other. We are especially cognizant of our seniors who undoubtedly have questions about end of year functions. Although we do not yet have answers to many of these important questions, please know that our high school principals are reaching out to seniors for their input. We will continue to provide timely updates as decisions and plans are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd Pehrson".

Todd Pehrson

Elko County School District Superintendent