

March, 23, 2020

Dear University of Texas - University Charter School System Families and Friends,

I hope that this message finds you and your families healthy and safe. This is a very difficult time for everyone, as we are all trying to figure out how to move forward with our lives as well as with our work. We are all in this together. I want to share with all of you what the University of Texas - University Charter School System has been planning for our schools moving forward.

As you are aware, on March 19, 2020 Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order related to COVID-19. In this executive order was the closure of all K-12 public schools through April 3, 2020, with some city mayors closing schools in their communities much longer. This school closure includes UT Elementary School as well as UT Charter School which supports 24 campuses within our partnering residential facilities and hospitals across the state. I want to be very transparent. This executive order could be extended to the end of this school year if our state and community leaders believe there is still a threat to the health and safety of our communities.

At this time, the district staff is working to ensure our students, families, and all of our staff remain safe and healthy in a time of significant disruption. This means that our schools are closed to traditional onsite instruction. We have also put mitigating practices in place in our own work environment. All of our district staff and teachers are working from home.

The district staff is currently developing and will be distributing resources for engaging students in learning activities and supporting them with the core curriculum at their homes or residential facilities.

UT Elementary School is developing online lessons as well as hands-on learning activities to send home with our families. Dr. Whetstone will communicate to the elementary school families the details about how instruction will be rolling out in the next few days.

UT Charter School is also creating resources for residential settings. Most of the resources will be available

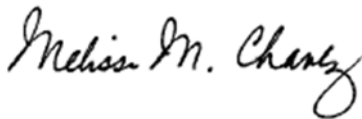
online, but we are also preparing additional hands-on lessons that will be delivered to the facilities for our younger students and students with more significant learning needs. Additionally, our high school students will have access to about 95% of their courses via our online learning platform *Plato*.

Our faculty and staff are preparing to have these resources to our families and facilities ASAP. Each facility should work directly with the campus principal to prepare our students for distance/remote learning moving forward. To facilitate communication, teachers and administrators will be available to address questions concerning assignments, class timelines, and grading practices. Teachers will be available via the online course, email and via phone messages. If you need to contact me please do so at:

m.m.chavez@austin.utexas.edu.

Our greatest source of pride comes from the relationships we've built with you: our students, families and partners. None of us have ever done this before. We will make mistakes, but please know we will work hard every day to ensure that our students have access to learning opportunities through this very turbulent time. In the meantime, please take care of yourself and take care of others.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa M. Chavez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

Melissa M. Chavez, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President and Superintendent
The University of Texas Charter School System
The University of Texas at Austin