

June 19, 2020  
4:30pm

Dear Gilbert Public Schools parents and families,

Thank you for your continued patience as we work towards a comprehensive plan for reopening our schools and a return to learning August 5, 2020. Please be assured that at the heart of our planning process is a commitment to the education and growth of all of our students, while continuing to make decisions that minimize the spread of COVID-19.

As a district and a Task Force, we continue to follow activities at a federal, state and local level to ensure that our district plan reflects recommendations from entities including the CDC, Arizona Governor's Office, and local agencies.

#### Face Coverings - Emergency Order Town of Gilbert and Guidance from City of Mesa

Today, the Town of Gilbert approved an Emergency Order stating that as of 5pm today, for a period of 30 days unless modified or rescinded, members of the public will be required to wear a face covering when entering and while inside Town-owned buildings and facilities, and in such indoor or outdoor places where persons are unable to maintain safe social distancing (six or more feet separation) from others not of their own household. The City of Mesa also convened a special meeting today and are currently working on a proclamation. **Please find attached a flyer with more details on how this applies to Gilbert Public Schools campuses and buildings, as of today.** Please note this guidance applies to all Gilbert Public Schools campuses and buildings, in both the Town of Gilbert and City of Mesa to ensure a consistent approach district-wide for all of our students and families. We will continue to monitor the situation and will update our community as needed. You can also visit the [Town of Gilbert website](#) and [City of Mesa website](#) for more information.

#### Task Force Update

As we all know, this COVID-19 pandemic is an ever evolving situation, and it is essential that our plan includes a range of options that are flexible in order to meet the needs of our students and families, and to prepare for a range of back-to-school scenarios and circumstances. To complete this plan there are a number of factors that are informing the work of the Task Force, including but not limited to:

- Student success and wellbeing.

- Recommendations at a federal, state and local level from entities including the CDC, and the Arizona Governor's Office.
- Arizona Department of Education Roadmap for Reopening Schools.
- Feedback from employee and parent surveys (June 2020).
- Resource limitations and funding parameters.

Our Task Force continues to explore all options to ensure that the final plan meets the needs of as many of our students and families as possible and promotes the health and safety of our community. In that light, we would like to update our community on three learning options that will be a part of the proposed plan presented to our Governing Board on June 30, 2020:

- Full-time in-person on campus learning with precautions in place to minimize spread of COVID-19.
- Full-time online learning with GPS Global Academy utilizing GPS teachers and a fully accredited online platform and curriculum.
- Hybrid options at the elementary and secondary levels, allowing students to learn both on campus part-time and online utilizing GPS Global Academy.

Please note, full details of all three options, will be shared with our community June 30th.

In the meantime, to keep our community as up-to-date as possible during the planning phase, we have created a Task Force update page on our district website including communication updates, presentations to the Governing Board, and an FAQ. Please visit this page for ongoing updates during the planning process [www.gilbertschools.net/taskforce](http://www.gilbertschools.net/taskforce).

The Task Force will present the final plan to the Governing Board on June 30, 2020. We will then communicate the plan with our community, including the launch of an online hub with key information and resources for our students, families and employees.

We will continue to be in frequent communication with you to ensure that you have all the information you need, as soon as possible, to support a positive return to our school August 5, 2020.

Thank you for your continued support of Gilbert Public Schools.

*Gilbert Public Schools*