



Distance Learning in a Rural School 101

Presented by
Heath Oates, Superintendent
Theresa Christian, Assistant Superintendent
El Dorado Springs R-2 Schools

<https://tinyurl.com/bsdjbr82>

El Dorado Springs R-2 Schools - Who Are We?



Demographics

K-12 Enrollment - 1139

B-5 Early Learning Center - 150

Free/Reduced Lunch - 68.3%

- 95% of this # are F)

Graduation Rate (3 yr ave) - 90.1% (4 yr rate)

Students w/Reliable Internet Access - 85%



How were 2020-21 perceptions affected by the Spring 2020 experience?



March 13, 2020 - Paradigm Shift w/ shutdown

- Schools made an on the fly attempt at providing something resembling education to students
 - **Goals -**
 - finish school year/graduate seniors
 - Welfare checks with kids
 - Food Delivery
 - Welfare Checkups

2020-21 Expectations

- Students--we'll be in school about a week, then back to spring break!--No accountability, no work, no internet!
- Teachers--all over the map.
 - "We're all going to die"
 - Desire for "normalcy"
 - "Over this COVID thing."

Summer 2021 - Getting Ready for 20-21

So many changes - so little time

Admin Changes:

- Heath Oates became superintendent
- New SPED Director, Elementary Principal, and Associate Elementary Principal

Community Speaks

- 1st week of July: El Do Picnic Public Meeting - 25:1 in favor of having picnic.
- Student activities and camps resume
- Summer youth leagues



66 Days!

Essential Question: -How are we going to educate kids?

- Creation of Tiered COVID Plans
- Creation of Teacher PD--best practices in online learning
- Adoption and implementation of Canvas and Seesaw
- Mitigation Practices--meals and mask mandates, disinfecting and decontaminating
- Teacher mindset--our teachers had a 2020 spring perception box and that affected how we could do remote learning in 2020-21.



How did we provide equitable internet access to students?

- We tried....
- The Plan
 - Provided devices to every student 😊
 - Provided 100 hotspots to students
 - Yellow Days - checked out to 85 families 😨
 - Quarantine 😓
 - Found internet access in the community 😂
 - Opened the cafeteria and bussed kids in and they stayed isolated 😎



Heath Oates <hoates@eldok12.org>

to district ▾

HS and MS Teachers,



Please prepare yourselves to begin teaching in **yellow status** in the high school and middle school, beginning tomorrow 9-24-20.

El Do's Chromebook Journey

- Began in 2014 - 90 Chromebooks in MS
- By 2020 - enough CBs in district for every student to have one--
 - Oates' Question: Why are we not 1:1?
 - We write the 1:1 plan
 - But we don't deploy until...September 23
- We had a COVID dam break and sent home 150+ kids for quarantine in a day.
 - I told teachers...

- We checked out 600 chromebooks to MS/HS students in an afternoon and another 600 to elementary students.
- We were prepared! ...but we didn't quite hit our Yellow Status threshold. And many teachers weren't too happy about prepping for AMix days and then coming to school the next day.
- That AMix day came a month later when we put 350 kids on quarantine.

How do we move forward with technology integration for the future?

- K-12 - 1:1 embedded in our system with Canvas (6-12) and Seesaw (K-5)
- Abandon things that did not work
 - Hotspots shipped back ASAP
 - Belief that devices will cure inequity by themselves
- Virtual Instruction Changes
 - Online Learning by El Do teachers
 - Virtual Liaison Role Expanded
- AMI Snow Days can be productive (but not perfect)



Which leadership lessons and resources can we leverage for the future?

Teacher Leaders--
Can develop and deliver professional development in a timely manner.



Administration Teams--
Can pull together to accomplish tasks when we have a defined purpose.
(Ongoing question: can we continue our purpose-driven effectiveness with healthy disagreement?)

PD Volunteers--teachers who signed up to organize and present on:

- G-Suite
- Organizing a Virtual Classroom & Classroom Management
- Distance Learning Resources (6-12)
- Screencasting
- Google Classroom



Financial resources to provide and ensure equity and access

- ESSER I Funds--\$484,000 (-\$35k to private school)
- County COVID Funds--\$118k
- Title Funds--\$80,000

Student Learning - Ever-Changing Environment

Adaptive Changes	Technical Fixes	Lessons Learned	Plans for the Future
Attendance in the Age of Quarantine	Canvas Seesaw Changes to Attendance procedures COVID Plan--Tiered System (Green, Yellow, Red)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leverage events to galvanize change. 2. Don't apply lessons learned in one district to another. 	EI Do teachers will facilitate online learning through Launch.
Lack of reliable internet	Hotspots 1:1 Chromebooks	We never had enough hotspots to meet demand, but could we ever have?	RDOF Grant--eventually Hotspots--No
Teachers doing 2 jobs at once - distance learning and face to face simultaneously	Professional development Title II.A ESSER I Tiered Instructional Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hybrid models are an unhappy compromise 2. Shifting PD on the fly create confusion & anxiety for Teacher Leaders 3. Tiered Instruction Plan did not take quarantine into account 	Some EI Do teachers will facilitate online learning through Launch. Teacher Leaders will focus on District PD Utilize volunteers to work through remaining issues

Lessons Learned from Your District

