



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Sept. 8, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

Welcome back to school—again! I realize we are starting 2017-2018 a couple weeks later than we originally planned, and I appreciate everyone's patience during this difficult time.

Certainly, Hurricane Harvey has proven to be a dynamic and unprecedented event for the CFISD community. So many of our neighbors have been displaced from their homes due to flooding and damage, and we want to remember those folks in our thoughts and prayers and continue to provide support as they get back on their feet.

You may have heard that Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath has waived the nine student days we have missed due to the flooding. I can assure you that our teachers and staff are going to provide each student with the same outstanding curriculum and instruction they would have received had we started on Aug. 28.

The outpouring of support for so many of our friends and neighbors impacted by this tragic event has been inspiring to see. People from different backgrounds and zip codes have all come together to support this community. That makes me extremely proud, not only to be a CFISD resident but also an American.



Without a municipal government that covers the entire district, CFISD stepped up to provide temporary shelter, support other shelters and school districts with food and

supplies and help operate our own point of distribution at the Berry Center that provided assistance to more than 5,000 community members.



On a personal note, I want to thank you for your prayers, encouraging comments and emails during this difficult time. I have been a superintendent for 27 years, and this was the most challenging and dynamic event I have ever experienced in that role.

For most of us, this event will be in our rear-view mirror rather quickly. But for a significant group of people in our community, this was a life-changing event. The theme we live by in CFISD is *Opportunity for All*. Let's make sure all of our community, with our continued support, has the opportunity to rebuild their lives this year.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools