



Board of Education
Keshia Thomas, President
Valerie F. Davis, Clerk
Claudia Cazares
Genoveva Islas
Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas
Carol Mills, J.D.
Major Terry Slatic USMC (Retired)

Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – JULY 24, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Superintendent, Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – Ruth F. Quinto, Deputy Superintendent/CFO

AS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for
July 10, 2020 and July 16, 2020

EQUITY & ACCESS – Lindsay Sanders, Chief Equity & Access

EA-1 Deanna Mathies Admittance Policy Change for Child
Development Centers/Preschool/PreK

OPERATIONAL SERVICES – Karin Temple, Chief Operations Officer

OS-1 Karin Temple Update on Student Neighborhood Resource
Officers (SNROs)
OS-2 Karin Temple Update on First Student – Transportation
for Students with Disabilities

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number AS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: July 24, 2020

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Executive Officer

Phone Number: 457-3907

Cabinet Approval:




Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for July 10, 2020 and July 16, 2020

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues.

The SSC Weekly Updates for July 10, 2020 and July 16, 2020 are attached and include the following articles:

- Legislature Return Postponed to July 27 – July 10, 2020
- Two November Initiatives Would Affect Education Funding – July 09, 2020
- Newsom Hopes California Schools Won't Be Delayed by Virus – July 09, 2020
- Schools Should Not Open Until Safety Is Assured, California Teachers Association Tells State – July 09, 2020
- Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan Template – July 16, 2020
- Pace of California Schools Planning To Open with Distance Learning Accelerates – July 15, 2020
- Classrooms Without Masks or Online Learning: California School Reopening Plans Vary Greatly – July 14, 2020
- Ask SSC... How Does the New Special Education Funding Formula Work? – July 14, 2020

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 07/24/2020



1121 L Street

Suite 1060

Sacramento

California 95814

TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

www.sscal.com

DATE: July 10, 2020
TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent
AT: Fresno Unified School District
FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team
RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

Legislature Return Postponed to July 27

After approving the 2020–21 State Budget package and meeting the house of origin deadline, the Assembly and Senate adjourned for their summer recess. While both houses were originally slated to return this upcoming Monday, July 13, 2020, legislative leadership announced earlier this week that they were postponing their return date after finding out that at least six people who work in the Capitol, including two Assemblymembers, have tested positive for COVID-19.

On Thursday morning, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) released a joint statement saying that session will now resume on Monday, July 27, in order for the Capitol to undergo a deep cleaning and minimize potential COVID-19 exposure to members, staff, and visitors.

This means that once again the Legislature will have to modify and condense its legislative calendar in order to meet constitutional deadlines that cannot be waived. With approximately 700 bills still left to consider, the first looming deadline is July 31, when bills with fiscal effects are supposed to be approved in policy committee; however, this is a legislative deadline that can be changed. The big deadline is August 31, which is considered the last day of the legislative session. The California Constitution states that no bill can be approved by either house on or after September 1 with the exception of a special session called by the Governor, statutes calling for elections, bills that levy taxes or appropriations, urgency measures, and bills vetoed by the Governor. The final constitutional drop-dead date for the Legislature to consider any measure that meet the August 31 exemption described above is November 30, 2020.

Senate Democrats Introduce \$430 Billion COVID-19 Education Relief Bill

Last week, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), the ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), introduced the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act, a \$430 billion stimulus package, which looks to build on the educational investments from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and

Economic Security Act (CARES) Act signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27. The bill would provide the following investments for education:

- \$345 billion into the Education Stabilization Fund, which was established under the CARES Act), including:
 - \$175 billion for K–12 schools whether or not they utilize distance learning, physically reopen, or offer a hybrid learning model
 - \$132 billion for higher education
 - \$33 billion for a Governor’s Fund to allocate funds for needed educational services to areas of their states hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis
- \$50 billion for a Child Care Stabilization Fund
- \$12 billion for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- \$4 billion for the E-Rate Program to provide technology and internet access to students
- \$4 billion for career, technical, adult education, and training

Senate Democrats introduced this bill after the White House and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) made it clear that they were not going to consider the \$3 trillion Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act passed by the Democratic controlled U.S. House of Representatives in mid-May. However, Senator McConnell recently did say that the Senate would consider another COVID-19 relief package aimed at “kids, jobs, and healthcare,” when the Senate returns from its recess on July 20, but provided few details beyond that statement.

We know the \$430 billion proposal by Senate Democrats will not be the final product if and when the Senate approves an additional relief package, but it is a blueprint that the Democrats can work from as they negotiate with their Republican colleagues.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Two November Initiatives Would Affect Education Funding

By Michelle McKay Underwood
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
July 9, 2020

Secretary of State Alex Padilla recently numbered the initiatives that have qualified for the November 2020 General Election, two of which will affect education funding.

Proposition 15 is the Schools and Communities First initiative that would change how commercial and industrial properties are assessed. Proponents have been working on this change to Proposition 13 for years, but it will be the first time it actually comes before voters. New property taxes that would result from the change would be split between existing local governments (about 60% of the new revenues) and a funding pool called the Local School and Community College Property Tax Fund (about 40% of the new revenues). The education funding would be split with 11% to community college districts and 89% to school districts, to be divided among districts based on their respective current funding formulas. These funds would be provided on top of existing Proposition 98 revenues.

Proposition 19 is less well known, having only very recently qualified for the ballot through the legislative process as Assembly Constitutional Amendment 11. If approved by California voters, the initiative would change homeowner property tax assessments in two ways:

- Expands the number of homeowners who would be eligible to transfer the taxable value of their current residence to a new residence, allowing them to buy a new residence while keeping the low assessed level of their former residence for property tax purposes
- When a home is transferred from a deceased parent or grandparent, it must remain as a primary residence in order to be shielded from reassessment, as under current law

Over time, the Legislative Analyst's Office believes these changes would result in new statewide property tax revenues in the hundreds of millions of dollars. During Proposition 98 Test 1 years, this will result in a net increase in the amount of funding dedicated to K–14 education; Test 1 is forecast to be operative over the next several years. During Test 2 and 3 years, the increased property taxes that flow to K–14 districts will generate savings for the state—and not increase funding for districts—which will then be transferred to a “California Fire Response Fund” that would be created by the proposition.

The full November 2020 voters' guide with analysis, pro and con statements, and the full text of all 12 statewide initiatives will be released by the Secretary of State in the next few weeks.

Note: After pushing states to physically reopen their schools this fall, President Trump has now threatened to withhold federal funding for schools that do not physically reopen their doors despite COVID-19 health risks.

Newsom Hopes California Schools Won't Be Delayed by Virus

By Adam Beam
Associated Press
July 9, 2020

Surging coronavirus cases in California prompted a warning on Wednesday from the nation's most populous county of a possible delay to classroom instruction in public schools next month — a setback Gov. Gavin Newsom said he hopes to avoid by convincing more people to wear face coverings and stay away from gatherings.

Los Angeles County public health officials say, on average, more than 10% of people tested for the virus end up having it, a rate not seen since late April. Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said school officials should prepare for delaying classroom instruction.

“With the uncertainty that we face right now in our county, everyone needs to have sort of a plan B around the reopening,” she said. “You absolutely would not want to open a sector when you thought the result of reopening could be an explosion of outbreaks within that sector.”

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said COVID-19 cases need to flatten before schools can reopen. The Los Angeles Unified School District is the nation's second-largest district.

“If we see numbers level off, then I think we will be in a position to have some level of schooling in the fall. But if they don't, I bet people will not be able to go back to school because it will be unsafe. So it's really up to us.”

The mayor repeatedly urged people to social distance, wear masks in public and stay at home whenever possible.

“There are still many social gatherings, maybe too many pool parties this weekend, too many play dates, too many family barbecues not just with your household, too many group activities,” Garcetti said. “This is what COVID-19 thrives off of.”

President Donald Trump weighed in on Wednesday, threatening to withhold federal money if school districts don't open their doors in the fall.

Gov. Gavin Newsom dismissed that threat, saying districts will decide for themselves whether opening is safe. But he said those decisions will depend on whether people can change their behavior and slow the spread.

“I would like to think that we have the capacity to make better decisions in the next few weeks where we don't have to make the decision to delay the school year,” said Newsom, who has four young children and echoed frustration at having to manage schooling at home.

Districts have been grappling with how to safely reopen. Some are offering options such as in-person instruction, virtual learning at home, or a combination of the two.

San Francisco health officials on Wednesday issued school reopening guidelines that include requiring all K-12 students to wear masks and for older children to stay 6 feet (1.8 meters) apart. They recommend staggered times for arrival, recess, lunch and dismissal for middle and high school students. Plus, they say schools should ban choir, playing instruments that spread saliva droplets, and sports where students can't stay at least 6 feet apart.

“We know that for our very youngest children, physical distance for the entire day is very tough, not practical for social-emotional learning and just very difficult to enforce,” said Jeanne Lee, medical director for the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Figuring out how to open schools will be a big piece of restarting California's economy. After shutting down much of the state in March to slow the spread of the disease, Newsom moved quickly to allow businesses to reopen in the spring once coronavirus cases stabilized. But since then, confirmed cases have spiked, leading to a 44% increase in coronavirus-related hospitalizations over the past two weeks.

Newsom has ordered people to wear face coverings in indoor and outdoor public places. The state is closely monitoring case numbers, placing counties on a watch list if their caseloads are too high. Any county listed for three consecutive days must shutter bars and indoor operations at restaurants, movie theaters, wineries, zoos, museums, card rooms and family entertainment centers like bowling alleys and arcades.

The list already includes the largest counties in Southern California, and Wednesday the Newsom administration added three more counties to the list: Napa, San Benito and Yolo. Yuba and Sutter counties expect to be added to the list on Thursday, according to Bi-County Health Officer Dr. Ngoc-Phuong Luu.

On average, California is testing 106,000 people per day, up from the 2,000 per day average in April. The increase has led to shortages of equipment, forcing the closure of some testing sites and delaying the results for days.

Los Angeles County public health officials say all testing slots are booked for the rest of the week. Demand is so high in San Diego County it can take up to 10 days to schedule a test. In San Bernardino County, public health officials limited tests because of supply shortages.

“There have been concerns about testing supply shortages throughout the state and within our county,” said Corwin Porter, San Bernardino County's interim public health director.

Newsom said he was proud of the state bulking up testing capacity. But he said he plans to announce protocols in the coming days to make the state “much smarter” when it comes to “who we are targeting” and “testing people on a more consistent basis so it's not just about the numbers.”

But the Los Angeles mayor warned people that getting a negative tests result one day doesn't mean someone is safe to ignore social distancing.

“A test is not a passport to party. Don't go out with your friends,” Garcetti said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

Associated Press reporters Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco and Brian Melley and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Note: The California Teachers Association submitted a letter to Governor Newsom and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on Wednesday expressing concerns about the recent COVID-19 surge and that schools shouldn't physically reopen until it is safe.

Schools Should Not Open Until Safety Is Assured, California Teachers Association Tells State

Pediatricians group says it told White House schools need resources to ensure safe openings.

By Louis Freedberg
EdSource
July 9, 2020

In a fierce rebuttal to the Trump administration's push for all children to return to school in the fall in the face of spreading coronavirus infections, California's largest teachers union is declaring bluntly that "California cannot reopen schools unless they are safe."

In a strongly worded letter sent Wednesday to Gov. Newsom, legislative leaders and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, the leadership of the California Teachers Association, representing about 310,000 teachers, said that the recent surge in infections "gives us pause around the state's preparedness for safe in person school instruction in a short six to eight week time frame."

The letter came on the same day that President Trump threatened to cut funding to schools that don't bring back all their children to class, and health officials advised Los Angeles County districts including Los Angeles Unified, the state's largest to prepare for the prospect of opening remotely this fall.

Read complete letter [here](#).

The CTA leaders said that many local districts don't have the necessary resources or capacity to maintain even the most basic prevention measures of six feet physical distancing and limiting contacts.

"We should be clear eyed about this reality," wrote CTA president Toby Boyd, along with its vice president David Goldberg and secretary-treasurer Leslie Littman. "How can we physically reopen schools with lower thresholds of safety than we currently have for restaurants or hair salons?"

They said that teachers want to be back in class with their students, "but we cannot ignore science facts and safety."

When asked about the letter during his daily news briefing on Thursday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said he agrees that “we need to keep people safe and healthy” and that students and staff should not return to schools until their safety can be assured. He said he appreciated the letter and was starting to engage with superintendents up and down the state about how they can reopen safely, as well as how they can provide quality distance learning if they decide it’s unsafe to reopen. Newsom said the state prefers in-person instruction if possible to address the social and emotional needs of children, as well as their academic needs. He also stressed that the state is providing \$5.3 billion in the budget to help schools address learning loss and safety issues.

If instruction continues remotely, he said its crucial that schools are “making sure we’re doing justice to distance learning in a way that’s equitable to all kids, not just some kids.”

Also on Wednesday, the American Academy of Pediatrics tried to blunt the message coming from the White House that all students should return in person to school — based in part on guidance the organization itself issued. Dr. Sally Goza, the organization’s president, spoke at the White House on Tuesday, arguing that missing school “can have serious consequences for child health and well-being.”

But in a letter to members yesterday Goza said that “its unfortunate that our guidance is being politicized by some and misinterpreted to mean a universal return to school no matter what. That is not what we recommend.”

Instead, she said, pediatricians are saying that children should only return to school if measures to keep students safe are in place. And that, she said, would require additional support from the federal government.

“When public health expertise is reframed to fit political interests,” she wrote, “it harms those who have the most at stake and the least opportunity to advocate for themselves: children.”

The CTA leaders said that California school districts have two options. One is to adopt what they called “a high risk in-person opening.” That, they said, would be risky even if it adopted a so-called “hybrid” approach, with students in school only part of the time, and the rest of the time at home, learning remotely.

The preferred model, they suggested, would be “to start the new school year under robust distance learning protocols until the virus is contained in local communities and proper safety measures can be put into place.”

“How can we reasonably expect hundreds of students and in some cases more than 1000 students to come together on one campus for an entire day without putting their health and the lives of every adult on that campus at risk?” they asked.

Trump tweeted on Wednesday that “Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and many other countries, SCHOOLS ARE OPEN WITH NO PROBLEMS.” If they could do it, so could the U.S., Trump argued. And if they didn’t he threatened to “cut off funding,” without specifying what funding and under what authority he could do that.

But the CTA leadership said that Trump “ignores the fact that these other countries invested heavily in personal protective equipment, health and safety protocols for education and testing — the very resources that he is threatening to withdraw.”

“We are deeply concerned that politics are being played with the lives of children and the educators who serve them,” they said.

As the CTA has done in the past, it called on the Legislature to come up with additional revenues to ensure that schools can reopen safely by suspending corporate tax credits and imposing additional taxes on the state's billionaires.

"We should not compromise on funding or school safety in the home of the greatest number of billionaires in the country, who have increased their net worth by 25% during the first three months of the pandemic," they wrote.

Dr. Goza from the American Academy of Pediatrics also repeated what she had told Trump at the White House on Tuesday that schools would need additional resources to ensure the safety of students and staff.

"I am very concerned by recent statements from federal leaders threatening to withhold federal funds from schools that do not pursue in-person reopening in the fall," she wrote. "This would put already financially strapped schools in impossible positions that would endanger the very people we are trying to protect."

EdSource reporter Theresa Harrington contributed to this report.



1121 L Street

Suite 1060

Sacramento

California 95814

TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

www.sscal.com

DATE: July 16, 2020

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan Template

One of the key education provisions in the enacted 2020–21 State Budget package was the suspension of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the 2020 California School Dashboard. In lieu of completing an LCAP for the 2020–21 school year, local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to adopt the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (Learning Continuity Plan) by September 30, 2020. In this new document, LEAs will include details such as how they will provide continuity of learning and address the impacts of COVID-19 on students, staff, and the community, and also how state and federal funds will be used to support these efforts.

Senate Bill 98, the education omnibus budget trailer bill, requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop a template for the Learning Continuity Plan by August 1, 2020. As a part of the document development, the California Department of Education (CDE) released a [draft](#) of the template on Monday and is soliciting stakeholder input and comments until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 16.

To highlight the similarities and differences between the LCAP and the Learning Continuity Plan, the CDE has posted a [comparison](#) of the two documents. The CDE states that the Learning Continuity Plan is expected to follow a process very similar to the LCAP, albeit with some content changes and distinction in timelines.

There has been an advocacy effort by educational equity organizations to require teachers to do at least three hours of online instruction daily in school districts that opt to begin the school year with distance learning. While they lobbied the Legislature to include the “at least three hours” language, lawmakers opted to go with language that requires only “daily interaction” and does impose a minimum instruction time. However, the organizations are still lobbying the CDE and SBE for that language to be included into the Learning Continuity Plan template, while many of the school management organizations argue that the current draft already strikes the right balance between accountability and practicality.

The template will be available for LEAs to use by August 1, 2020.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Note: Following the announcement that Los Angeles and San Diego Unified School Districts will begin the school year via distance learning, a number of other districts have also announced that they will start the 2020–21 year virtually.

Pace of California Schools Planning To Open with Distance Learning Accelerates

By Louis Freedberg
EdSource
July 15, 2020

The pace of school districts that will start the coming school year primarily with distance learning is accelerating in California. In recent days, districts serving at least 1.4 million of the state’s 6.2 million public school students have announced that they will be teaching students remotely, at least to begin the school year.

The rapid increase in coronavirus cases and hospitalizations in the state just weeks before most school districts are due to open for the 2020-21 school year appears to be the driving factor in districts deciding to continue online learning for most or all of their students.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said he recognized the health realities that many districts are facing, and applauded districts for “putting safety first.”

“I do think that if school had to open tomorrow, most of our districts would open with distance learning and that decision I think is a good one,” Thurmond said in a briefing on Wednesday.

The reliance on distance learning this fall presents educators with profound challenges for how to engage students and provide them with an effective education, while limiting the “learning loss” they might suffer. It also means that for several more months parents will have to somehow balance working and caring for children who during normal times would have been at school.

On Tuesday, Long Beach Unified, Santa Ana Unified, Stockton Unified, and Lodi Unified, with a combined enrollment of about 200,000 students were among the latest districts to announce they would open next month via distance learning, following the decision to do so by Los Angeles Unified and San Diego Unified a day earlier.

On Wednesday, the Sacramento County Office of Education announced that all 13 school districts in the county, including Sacramento City Unified, would start the school year with students learning from home. The districts together enroll about 250,000 students. They joined neighboring Stanislaus County, where all its 25 districts, including Modesto City Schools and Turlock Unified, will open with distance learning for its 100,000 students. San Francisco Unified also announced it would open with distance learning in the fall.

Thurmond acknowledged that “conditions have changed dramatically” since the California Department of Education issued its guidance for school opening last month. “We know that in many communities throughout our state, we’re seeing high rates of infection in the community,” he said.

At the same time he said there counties that don’t have many positive coronavirus cases, and where schools could reopen using guidance from health experts. “We believe those schools should continue their plans to open safely,” he said.

At least 75 school districts have announced that distance learning will be their default instruction mode this fall. That is just a fraction of the over 1,000 districts in the state. But those that have announced include one half of the state's 30 largest school districts, including the largest, Los Angeles Unified. Most districts in the state have yet to state how they will open.

Many of the districts that have decided on distance learning are still hoping that they will be able to open for in-classroom instruction sometime in the fall. Oakland Unified, for example, will open via remote learning on Aug. 10 in what officials say will be an "opening phase" that will last four weeks.

Enrollment figures for Los Angeles Unified and several other districts include students who are attending charter schools, and it is not yet clear what charter schools around the state are planning for the fall.

Long Beach's decision was especially notable because it is scheduled to open on Aug. 31, which is nearly seven weeks away, later than most districts planning to implement distance learning.

Jill Baker, who took over as superintendent on July 1, explained that "this decision was a hard one to make," saying the district would offer remote instruction to all students at least until Oct. 5.

"Covid-19 cases continue to increase, hospitalizations are on the rise and the percentage of positive tests is also climbing," she said. "In full protection of our district staff and students, we have decided that beginning with online instruction and closely monitoring the health data as October 5th approaches will be our best next step."

Santa Ana Unified's starting date of Aug. 10 is less than a month away, which put additional pressure on the district to make a decision. "The district will pivot entirely to distance learning to start the upcoming school year out of concern for the safety and well-being of the entire school community," Superintendent Jerry Almendariz explained in a video message. "This decision comes as the number of COVID-19 cases throughout Santa Ana, and across California and the rest of the country, continues to climb at an alarming rate. Thus, a full distance learning model is the safest option for our Santa Ana students, parents and staff."

Some districts planning to be mostly online this fall might also bring in smaller groups of high-needs students to school to try to limit the learning loss that has been a major concern since the start of the pandemic — but only if it is safe to do so.

Other school districts, including some of the state's largest, are still planning to offer what is called "hybrid instruction," which involves a mix of distance learning and in-person instruction.

An indication of how quickly the landscape is changing, just last week Elk Grove Unified near Sacramento, the state's fifth-largest district, announced last week that it would offer two models for the fall term — "transitional learning" and "full distance learning." The transitional learning approach, the district's superintendent Chris Hoffman explained in an online letter, referred to "in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible under existing health conditions and guidelines regarding social distancing, sanitation and personal protective equipment."

However, less than a week later, Elk Grove joined a dozen other districts in Sacramento County in announcing that it would open with distance learning only.

Long Beach’s Baker said the decision this week by neighboring Los Angeles Unified and San Diego Unified to open schools via distance learning did have an impact on her district’s decision, but it wasn’t the only factor.

“We pay close attention to the decisions of other districts, but we always filter the decisions of others through the needs of our community,” she said. She also tried to reassure parents that the district’s online curriculum, which would include daily live lessons, grading and attendance, would be “more intense and consistent” than what students experienced following the district’s rapid closure in the spring.

State superintendent Thurmond said he understood why some districts have decided to start the school year with distance learning. “We know, for example, in the case of Los Angeles County, the data shows that the rate of case infection is quite high, much higher than in many other communities. And so, we applaud the superintendent and the school boards in Los Angeles and San Diego for making the decision to say let’s open safely.”

EdSource senior reporter Diana Lambert contributed to this report.

Note: The state has yet to make a final recommendation on whether districts should require students to wear masks when schools physically reopen their doors.

Classrooms Without Masks or Online Learning: California School Reopening Plans Vary Greatly

By MacKenzie Hawkins
Sacramento Bee
July 14, 2020

Students in Los Angeles Unified School District will learn entirely online this fall. In neighboring Orange County, the Board of Education has pushed for a full return to the classroom, sans masks or social distancing.

Gov. Gavin Newsom’s administration has issued several guidelines for school reopening. But those guidelines — unlike the strict orders that govern other industries and aspects of public life — fall short of mandates. For example, it remains unclear whether students and staff will have to wear masks on campus.

“There are different counties with local health guidelines and officials working in partnerships with their superintendent of public schools based on conditions on the ground,” Newsom said in a Monday press conference.

With local education administrators left largely to their own devices, California’s students will have vastly different instructional experiences this fall.

Here’s a look at how school reopening varies across the state.

Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino, Long Beach: Some of California’s largest school districts plan to start fall 2020 remotely. In their respective announcements, local administrators cited spikes in coronavirus infections that put in-person learning at odds with public health.

“One fact is clear: those countries that have managed to safely reopen schools have done so with declining infection rates and on-demand testing available,” Los Angeles and San Diego unified school districts said in a joint statement. “California has neither. The skyrocketing infection rates of the past few weeks make it clear the pandemic is not under control.”

Officials say they intend to bring students back to the classroom when it is safe to do so, but their timelines vary. Regardless of when that transition occurs, parents uncomfortable with in-person learning can elect for extended remote education.

Some districts are setting a shorter timeline for remote learning. In Oakland, for instance, fully remote learning for all students is expected to last for a maximum of four weeks as officials plan for a safe return to the classroom. Parents can elect to continue with online education after that date.

Each district’s plans include regular assignments and daily, live interaction with teachers. Los Angeles hopes to provide one-on-one tutoring after school and on Saturday mornings to accelerate student progress, Superintendent Austin Beutner said on Monday.

HYBRID MODEL WITH MODIFIED SCHEDULE

Some school districts will give all students the option to return to campus in August — part time.

Capistrano Unified School District will allow families to choose between fully online instruction or spending half their time in a classroom.

For elementary school students, that means in-person instruction every day with the option of spending remaining time in a supervised school environment or at home. Middle and high school students can come to campus two and a half days each week and spend the rest of their time in “online study or home supplementary activities.”

Pasadena Unified School District has developed hybrid plans that aim to split students into cohorts such that half of students are on campus on any given day. Schools plan to offer childcare services on days that students are not receiving in-person education.

As for masks, the jury’s still out. Pasadena administrators, echoing confusion felt across the state, are unsure whether they will require face coverings on campus given that they “might not be exempt” from statewide mask requirements.

FIVE DAYS A WEEK, WITH SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE

Several school districts are preparing for a full, 5-day school week and developing contingency plans in the form of hybrid and fully online models.

Corona-Norco Unified School District will require masks, social distancing and other safety precautions for students who choose a traditional classroom model, which will include a remote component should public health conditions require classrooms to close entirely. Students can also elect to learn online for the entire year.

Officials in Sacramento County’s San Juan Unified School District want to implement a 5-day format “as soon as possible and when safe to do so with reasonable safety precautions.” If the public health situation

makes that vision impossible come August, students will learn on campus two days a week and online the rest of the time.

In San Diego County, administrators in Vista Unified School District are set to choose between daily on campus learning with “robust” health and safety measures and a fully virtual model.

SCHOOL’S OPEN, NO CHANGES

Even though California now records over ten times as many new cases per day as it did in March, when schools across the state sent students home indefinitely, one school board wants coronavirus-era classrooms to look like their pre-pandemic counterparts.

The Orange County Board of Education — echoing sentiments expressed by dozens of vocal parents — opposes masks in the classroom. Four of five board members this week voted for recommendations that encourage regular temperature checks but no other public health precautions.

“Requiring children to wear masks during school is not only difficult – if not impossible to implement – but not based on science. It may even be harmful and is therefore not recommended,” the recommendations read. The board also said social distancing is unnecessary because children are the “lowest-risk cohort.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that masks and social distancing help reduce the spread of the virus, and Newsom has mandated face coverings in virtually all public settings.

Orange County Department of Education Superintendent Dr. Al Mijares clarified that the Board of Education’s recommendations are “not binding” and that his department remains “100 percent committed” to following public health guidelines and helping Orange County’s 27 school districts develop reopening plans consistent with state and local protocols.

Note: The 2020–21 State Budget included a new special education funding formula and an additional investment for students with disabilities.

Ask SSC . . . How Does the New Special Education Funding Formula Work?

By Michelle McKay Underwood
School Services of California Inc.’s *Fiscal Report*
July 14, 2020

- Q.** In January, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed a special education funding formula to replace the current formula, commonly called Assembly Bill (AB) 602. Was AB 602 ultimately replaced with a local educational agency (LEA)-based formula?
- A.** While many aspects of the AB 602 formula were made inoperable or repealed through the 2020–21 State Budget, ultimately, the formula still operates at the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) level.

The new formula is based on the highest of the SELPA’s current-, prior-, or second prior-year average daily attendance (ADA). Whichever ADA is highest is then multiplied by the new funding rate of \$625.00 per ADA. This is compared to your prior-year SELPA base rate, which for most was the

statewide target rate of \$557.27 per ADA. Those SELPAs that have a rate higher than this amount in the prior year will retain that funding level and no cost-of-living adjustment is applied.

Special education has been burdened with a deficit factor for several years, which has meant that a dollar earned is not always a full dollar received. For SELPAs receiving the \$625.00 base rate, no deficit factor is applied; for those funded at a higher rate, the deficit factor continues to erode special education funding.

Other Special Education Changes

- Several adjustments to the AB 602 calculation, such as those for Necessary Small SELPAs and Program Specialists and Regionalized Services, have been frozen.
- The low incidence disability cost pool has *not* been frozen and has been increased by \$100 million in the 2020–21 State Budget.
- The 2020–21 State Budget also allows for additional use of educationally related mental health services funds, which will now be available for all mental health-related services, including those not necessarily required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Out-of-home care funding continues to be frozen at the December 2016 count through the 2020–21 school year.
- Districts are prohibited from creating single-district SELPAs until July 1, 2024.

A handful of programmatic changes also took place in the 2020–21 State Budget, including the requirement to update a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) to describe how services will be provided under emergency conditions. This update will take place through the existing IEP process, meaning that an additional meeting is not required to make this change. LEAs must have plans to ensure special education services are provided if distance learning is offered. Finally, the annual assurances support plan requirement is delayed an additional two years, from July 1, 2021, until July 1, 2023.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number EA-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Deanna Mathies, Executive Director
Cabinet Approval:

Date: July 24, 2020

Phone Number: 457-3416

Regarding: Admittance Policy Change for Child Development Centers/Preschool/PreK

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board with information regarding a new process for supporting toilet learning in all Early Learning Programs.

During Fresno Unified School District's 2019/20 Federal Program Monitoring Review from the California Department of Education, we received a finding under our California State Preschool Program and General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR) contracts- The Local Education Agencies has added an additional requirement that is not stated in law that children be toilet trained before the family is eligible for the CCTR/CSPP services. Per California Department of Education guidelines there are not to be conditions placed on acceptance/enrollment to a program. By correcting this finding all families will be able to has access to Early Learning Programs in FUSD.

The changes to this policy are reflected in the Early Learning Parent Handbook, as indicated below:

A child's self-help skills, such as the ability to handle toileting needs on their own, will not impede the enrollment process or entry into any of our part-day or full-day programs; enrollment will be solely based on eligibility criteria. For children who are not yet toilet trained, our programs will partner with parents/guardians to establish a toilet learning process. Families are asked to bring a change of clothes, including shoes and socks, should your child have an accident.

Additionally, the following statement has been removed from our Parent Admissions Agreement form:

The centers will accommodate children who are age 2 years old through eight years old (if they are toilet trained), except for our new Early Learning Center which will accommodate children 6 weeks through 5 years old.

To date we have given thirteen online training opportunities to teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff in the Early Learning Department. In this training we covered the FPM finding that initiated the new process, establishing a family partnership in toilet learning, health and safety practices, and licensing regulations around toilet learning. All staff members will be given a refresher training each year and toilet training resources to share with parents.

During the enrollment process parents are asked if their child is toilet trained. We are collecting this data to provide ongoing support for the family as their child is moving toward the milestone of being fully toilet trained. We will share upcoming toilet learning workshops held by the Early Learning Department as they are scheduled.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 07/24/2020

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number OS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Karin Temple, Chief Operating Officer
Cabinet Approval: *K Temple*

Date: July 24, 2020

Phone Number: 457-3134

Regarding: Update on Student Neighborhood Resource Officers (SNROs)

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the 15 SNROs assigned to middle schools and DeWolf High School. The contract with the Fresno Police Department (FPD) for SNROs expired at the end of June, and staff has been working with FPD to develop a successor contract that addresses Board concerns. With no instruction on school campuses currently, FPD has redeployed SNROs away from schools to other duties. Staff will continue discussion with FPD for services when on-campus instruction resumes.

The 11 Student Resource Officers (SROs) assigned to high schools continue to serve Fresno Unified in a limited capacity, primarily supporting meal distribution sites. Staff is working with FPD on an amended SRO agreement to reflect reduced need for services during the period of 100% distance learning, as well as enhanced data collection and ongoing collaborative conversations around student-Officer interactions.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Karin Temple at 457-3134.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.

Robert G. Nelson

Date: 07/24/2020

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number OS-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Karin Temple, Chief Operating Officer
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: July 24, 2020

Phone Number: 457-3134

Regarding: Update on First Student – Transportation for Students with Disabilities

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board updated information regarding the district's agreement with First Student for transportation for students with disabilities. Consistent with the Board's directive to pay contractors only for services provided during the period of no on-campus instruction, First Student was paid for services only through March 13, 2020. Fresno Unified would have expended approximately \$3.2 million on First Student's services from March 16, 2020 throughout the semester.

Staff has engaged in extensive negotiations with First Student's local, state and national leadership regarding their request to be paid identified fixed costs of fleet maintenance and other costs to maintain operational readiness. It is recognized by the district that transportation services are different from other contracted services, in that equipment and drivers and support infrastructure must be maintained to be ready when needed. However, there was not agreement on the amount of a one-time payment to support those costs as requested by First Student.

The district is entering the final year of the five-year agreement with First Student. When the service was competitively bid in 2016, First Student was the only bidder. Due to the significant capital and other start-up costs of student transportation services, it is not typical that multiple vendors would be available in one area. Extending the existing agreement (which is allowed by California Education Code) with revisions to address additional district needs, would be to the mutual advantage of Fresno Unified and First Student by providing long-term stability and certainty to both parties.

Therefore, it will be recommended to the Board in the future to extend the current agreement with First Student for an additional five years. The recommendation will also include a one-time payment of \$200,000 to First Student in consideration for fixed costs to maintain operational readiness during the period of no on-campus instruction. Amendments to the agreement requested by Fresno Unified are financial penalties for late/no routes, a two-week start-up period to familiarize students and families with First Student services/drivers, and implementation of a van service to augment the traditional bus fleet.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Karin Temple at 457-3134.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. _____



Date: 07/24/2020