



Fresno Unified  
School District

*Achieving our Greatest Potential!*

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Valerie F. Davis, President  
Keshia Thomas, Clerk  
Claudia Cazares  
Genoveva Islas  
Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas  
Major Terry Slatic USMC (Retired)  
Trustee Area 5 (Vacant)

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

## BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – November 19, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Superintendent, Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

**SUPERINTENDENT – Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.**

S-1 Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.      Superintendent Calendar Highlights

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – Santino Danisi, Chief Financial Officer**

AS-1 Kim Kelstrom      School Services Weekly Update Report for

**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – Kim Mecum, Chief Academic Officer**

SL-1 Edith Navarro      Exercise Your Brain Website

SL-2 Edward Gomes      Semester One Additional 30 Minutes of  
Instructional Time

SL-3 Edward Gomes      School Site Tutoring Options

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number S-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Robert G. Nelson, Superintendent  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: November 19, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Met with labor partners
- Participated in Wallace Foundation Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative PLC virtual convening
- Met with Executive Cabinet team
- Held Fresno Unified Virtual Staff Town Hall
- Participated in the weekly call with Fresno County Superintendents
- Attended Fresno High CTE Building Grand Opening event
- Attended Breakfast with Blue Media event at Roosevelt
- Met with African American Academic Acceleration Student Voice Collaborative
- Watched the 2021 Hero for the Central Valley Health Policy Institute in the College of Health and Human Services at Fresno State virtual event
- Attended the Fresno C2C Leadership Council Meeting
- Spoke at the Scholastic Book Press Event at Ewing Elementary School
- Taught Fresno Unified/San Diego State University Doctorate Class, Re-Thinking Leadership
- Handed out State Championship Rings to Roosevelt Girls Basketball Team

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: November 19, 2021

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number AS-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Executive Officer   
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: November 19, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Report for November 12, 2021

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Update. 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 Update for November 12, 2021 is attached and includes the following articles:

- House Sends Infrastructure Package to President Biden – November 10, 2021
- Democrats' Bill Plans the Biggest Expansion of Public Education in a Century – November 11, 2021
- What California Parents Need to Know About Covid Vaccinations for Children | Quick Guide – November 10, 2021

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: November 19, 2021



1121 L Street

•

Suite 1060

•

Sacramento

•

California 95814

•

TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

•

FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

•

[www.sscal.com](http://www.sscal.com)

DATE: November 12, 2021

TO: Robert G. Nelson  
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

---

## **PPIC Releases November Survey**

On Tuesday, the Public Policy Institute of California's (PPIC) latest monthly [survey](#) was released, providing a snapshot of how Californians feel about key issues including the economy and reforming the recall process.

### **Economy**

The survey, which was conducted from October 12 to October 31, found that a solid majority of Californians approve of the way Governor Gavin Newsom and the state Legislature are handling the economy. The poll found that 62% of likely voters approve of the way Governor Newsom is handling the issue of jobs and the economy and 56% approve of the Legislature's handling of economic issues. The survey also found that 61% of likely voters approve of the Governor's handling of the state's K-12 public education system.

Lawmakers received high marks on the economy, despite 53% of likely voters indicating that they think we will see bad economic times with periods of widespread unemployment or depression over the next 12 months. Despite pessimism over the next year's economic prospects, nearly two-thirds (63%) of likely voters claim that their financial situation is about the same as it was a year ago and 56% think that their financial situation will be about the same a year from now.

The survey also asked respondents about the wealth gap between the rich and the poor. Nearly three-fourths (72%) of likely voters believe that the gap is getting larger, and two-thirds of likely voters think that the gap will be even greater in the year 2030 than it is now. Looking further into the future, 69% of likely voters think that when today's children grow up, they will be worse off financially than their parents.

The economic anxiety expressed by respondents is interesting considering the latest Department of Finance bulletin shows that the state is beating revenue projections for the current fiscal year by over \$9.1 billion. Governor Newsom said last month that he anticipates the state will have another "historic surplus" as he and his team are preparing for the release of their 2022-23 State Budget proposal in January.

The reason for the surplus is that California is one of the few states that taxes capital gains, which results in 1% of the state's population accounting for about half of the income tax collections. This means that state revenues are propped up by the wealthy and while poor and middle-class Californians are expressing economic anxiety, that same anxiousness hasn't been realized by the state's top earners who have made even more money during the pandemic, which has exacerbated the wealth gap.

### **Reforming the Recall Process**

Governor Newsom soundly defeated the recall effort in September with 62% of voters rejecting the campaign, which is the same percentage that voted for Newsom in the 2018 gubernatorial election. The recall cost California taxpayers approximately \$300 million and has prompted a number of legislators to look at reforming the process, particularly raising the bar it takes to trigger a recall election for an elected official. PPIC asked respondents several questions about whether they support reforming the state's recall process.

While the current process allows for voters to recall an elected official for any or no reason, the poll found that 64% of likely voters think the process should be changed so that an elected official can only be recalled because of illegal or unethical activity. That same percentage (64%) of likely voters also stated they support raising the bar to trigger a gubernatorial recall from 12% of those who voted in the last election up to 25%. The recall election currently states that while it takes a majority of voters to oust a sitting governor (first question on the ballot), whoever replaces the governor (second question) only needs a plurality of the vote. Nearly three fourths (72%) of likely voters think that if a governor is recalled and no replacement candidate has a majority of the vote, then a runoff election between the top two vote getters should be held. Overall, half (50%) of likely voters think that the recall process needs major reform and 28% think it only needs minor changes, which means only 22% of likely voters support the status quo.

Despite over three-fourths of likely voters believing that the recall process needs at least some reform, an overwhelmingly majority (86%) still believes that it is a good thing that the California constitution provides a mechanism to recall elected officials. This means that any proposal to completely eliminate the recall would be off of the table. However, because the vast majority of likely voters believe that reform is necessary, there is a very strong chance that legislators will put a proposal before voters next November that asks them to approve changes to the state's recall process. In fact, 70% of likely voters support creating a bipartisan commission that would hold public hearings and make recommendations for a state proposition on the November 2022 ballot.

*Leilani Aguinaldo*

## **House Sends Infrastructure Package to President Biden**

By Kyle Hyland

School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*

November 10, 2021

Last Friday, November 5, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives sent the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill to President Joe Biden, after months of uncertainty.

The bill, which was negotiated in a bipartisan manner and approved by the Senate back in August, includes \$550 billion in new spending. While the funding largely focuses on transportation and other core infrastructure projects, schools will benefit from investments in zero- and low-emission school buses, expanding broadband infrastructure nationwide, and a significant investment to expand access to clean drinking water.

Over the weekend, the Newsom Administration issued a [press release](#) hailing the approval of the infrastructure package and detailing the benefits that California will receive once it is signed into law by President Biden, including the following investments:

- \$3.5 billion over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure clean, safe drinking water for California communities, including schools
- At least \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state
- \$9.45 billion over five years to improve public transportation options across the state
- \$384 million over five years to support the expansion of an electric vehicle (EV) charging network in the state and the opportunity to apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging
- \$84 million over five years to protect against wildfires and \$40 million to protect against cyberattacks

The bill is expected to provide thousands of jobs for California's economy by modernizing the state's infrastructure and improving the transportation systems.

Despite the bipartisan support of the infrastructure package, there was a lot of uncertainty about the bill clearing the House as progressive Democrats did not want to send the measure to President Biden until the \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better Act was approved. While House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) had originally planned to bring both measures up for a vote last Friday, the Build Back Better Act, which includes social infrastructure such as free preschool, will not be voted on by the House until they return next week.

While the House Democratic caucus is expected to have the votes to approve the Build Back Better Act, the bill will face an uphill battle when it goes to the Senate unless moderate Democrats Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) agree to endorse the measure. Despite the two senators being key players in reducing the bill's price tag from \$3.5 trillion down to \$1.75 trillion, neither have officially said whether they plan to vote for the pared down measure. Without the support of those two senators, the bill will not be able to clear the upper house and make it to President Biden's desk, as Senate Republicans remain in lockstep opposition to the measure.

While the Build Back Better Act is still in flux, we know that President Biden plans on signing the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package at a signing ceremony next week when Congress returns to session. We will let you know when President Biden signs the bill and will continue to keep you apprised of what is happening with the Build Back Better Act. Stay tuned.

---

*Note: The Build Back Better Act would provide universal preschool access for three- and four-year-old children and subsidize the cost of childcare for the vast majority of parents with a child under six.*

## **Democrats' Bill Plans the Biggest Expansion of Public Education in a Century**

By Jennifer Haberkorn  
*Los Angeles Times*  
November 11, 2021

Largely overlooked amid the fights on Capitol Hill over immigration, drug pricing and paid family leave, Democrats' plan to transform how the nation provides early child care stands out as one of the most expensive and sweeping provisions of their \$1.85-trillion social safety net bill.

Costing \$390 billion, the proposal would provide universal preschool access for 3- and 4-year-old children — the largest expansion of free education since public high school was added about 100 years ago. It would also subsidize the cost of child care for the vast majority of parents with a child under 6.

Together, the provisions would convert early childhood education and child care in the U.S. from a private, disparate network that favors the wealthy into a taxpayer-funded system that could ease the burden for millions of working parents and low-income families. Democrats are beginning to focus on the child-care provisions as a generational change that will resonate with voters.

"This is the stuff of legacy," said Melissa Boteach, a vice president at the National Women's Law Center. "When you reconceive of child care as a public good, which this bill does, you understand that it's unaffordable for parents. And providers are already earning poverty wages. The way you crack that nut is by large-scale public investment."

Democrats argue that parents — typically mothers — cannot be full participants in the workforce if their children are not in affordable, high-quality care programs.

They also point to a significant disparity between the U.S. and other developed Western countries that provide preschool. As of 2019, only about half of American 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in preschool, according to federal statistics.

"I have had kindergarten teachers tell me that, on the first day of school, they have kids who do not know how to turn a page in a book or pick up a pencil. They automatically start way behind," said Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), a former preschool teacher who has been advocating for the policy for decades. She introduced the legislation alongside Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-Va.).

Republicans counter that the proposal allows the government to take control of decisions better left to parents. With next year's midterm election in mind, they say it fits into a broader narrative of Democrats interfering in education, such as pandemic closures and school mask mandates.

"The Biden administration wants to insert itself into the most intimate family decisions and tell parents how to care for their toddlers," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). "Democrats want to sweep the first five years of children's lives into a new set of top-down, one-size-fits-all, Washington-knows-best regulations."

Several Republicans have complained the policy would exclude faith-based preschool or day-care programs.

But under the plan, any program would be able to participate as long as it meets state and federal requirements, and child-care centers and parents could choose not to participate.

Republicans say those federal parameters would still leave out some people, such as child-care centers that don't want to comply with the new rules or families in which grandparents provide child care or one parent chooses to not work outside the home.

Murray said the change is long overdue and is particularly needed during the pandemic.

"We have a country where women can't be at work. We have employers who are looking for qualified workers," she said. "The way we support families, the way we value families, and the way that we make sure that families are secure in this country is by eliminating barriers that keep [women] from being able to do what they need to care for their families."

The child-care and preschool policies will take time to fully implement and would be in place only through 2027 — a constraint that will make successful and early implementation politically important to Democrats, who will want to ensure a future Congress will feel political pressure to renew it.

"You're not going to be able to take your kid to pre-K next week or next year even," said Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough). "It's the nature of doing something that is that transformative. We're going to have to prepare everyone, but it's so far past time for us to do these things."

In a bill that has been substantially cut from what Democrats had originally hoped to enact, the child-care policies have been relatively well protected and noncontroversial among Democrats.

Under the proposed policy, all 3- and 4-year-old children, including those without legal status, would be guaranteed access to preschool regardless of their parents' income, the largest expansion of universal and free education since localities established public high school a century ago, according to the National Women's Law Center. However, attendance at preschool would be voluntary.

In addition, parents of a child under 6 who make up to 2.5 times the state median income — or about \$233,760 for a family of four in California this year — would be provided assistance on a sliding scale to help cover the cost of child care, capped at 7% of their income.

The result would be lower child-care costs for more than 90% of families with young children, according to a group of child advocacy organizations that support the bill.

States would decide whether to participate in the program. A state or region that accepts would shape the policy within federal parameters.

In general, policy experts expect states would set up systems in which parents could choose from a list of participating child-care centers. Subsidies would go directly from the federal government to the child-care center on behalf of the eligible parent. Alternatively, parents could get a voucher to pay their child-care provider directly.

A spokesperson for Gov. Gavin Newsom said he “looks forward to utilizing federal dollars to build on California’s child-care program.”

Earlier this year, California approved a universal program for 4-year-olds that relies predominantly on public schools, as opposed to the federal plan, which would rely on a mixed-delivery system of various kinds of schools.

The combination of the state and federal programs could provide Californians with access to many different pre-K venues, according to Linda Asato, executive director of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, an educational policy organization.

“It helps California expand its vision of preschool to include more community-based organizations,” Asato said. It would allow the state to expand preschool in a way it isn’t able to now, she said.

Mindful that many Republican-led states opted against participating in Obamacare’s expansion of Medicaid, Democrats said that if a state refuses to use the program, a locality could still do so.

Child-care centers that participate — whether they are day-care centers, public schools, faith-based institutions or Head Start programs — would have to operate within federal parameters, which would be spelled out more explicitly by the Biden administration.

Federal and state regulations would determine details such as the length of a preschool day and year, and academic requirements for certain teachers.

In an attempt to address the severe shortage of workers, employers would also have to provide living wages comparable to those of elementary school workers with similar credentials.

Due to the worker shortage, full implementation would take time, and parents’ child-care costs could increase before the subsidies are in full effect as providers hire more staff and meet new educational requirements.

If the program is launched next year as planned, only families making under the state median income — \$93,504 for a family of four in California this year — would be eligible for subsidies. The plan’s supporters expect that additional costs for parents would be made up for when subsidies are rolled out to all income levels.

The pandemic’s closure of schools and day-care centers brought the child-care industry’s problems into sharper focus, particularly low wages that have driven people from the profession.

The national median wage for an early childhood worker was between \$11.65 and \$14.67 per hour before the pandemic, according to the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley. The industry still has not recovered.

Child-care centers haven't increased wages because doing so could raise prices out of reach of many parents.

"What this bill does is solve this market failure," said Julie Kashen, a director and senior fellow at the Century Foundation. "The government is coming in and saying we are going to solve this problem by putting the money in to raise wages for the early educators and lower costs for parents."

---

*Note: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized emergency use of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 12-15 in May and a pediatric dose of the vaccine for children ages 5-11 in late October.*

## **What California Parents Need to Know About Covid Vaccinations for Children | Quick Guide**

By Diana Lambert  
*EdSource*  
November 10, 2021

Now that Covid-19 vaccinations for children age 5 and older are available in California, many parents are eager to sign their children up for the vaccine. But widespread misinformation about Covid-19 and the vaccine has some parents wondering whether to get their child immunized.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized emergency use of the Pfizer Covid vaccine for children ages 12 to 15 in May and a pediatric dose of the vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 in late October. Children 16 and older also are eligible for the adult Pfizer vaccine, which has full approval.

"Vaccines are how we end this pandemic, and they're how we keep our kids safe – it's time to get our children the protection they need from this deadly virus, especially as we head into the winter season," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in announcing the state's rollout of the vaccine on Nov. 3. "California is leading the nation in vaccinations with 54 million administered and 87% of the eligible population with at least one dose, and we're moving swiftly to implement a robust and equitable vaccination program that will cover this newly eligible age group."

The federal government plans to give California 1.2 million doses of the children's vaccine, enough to vaccinate all of its 5- to 11-year-olds, health authorities said.

California K-12 students will be required to be vaccinated against Covid following the FDA's authorization of the Covid vaccine for each age group age 5 and up. School staff are currently required to be vaccinated or tested, but they will not have the testing option once the student mandate kicks in.

### **Why should my child be vaccinated against Covid-19?**

Clinical trials of the vaccine showed that the vaccine was 90.7% effective in preventing Covid-19 in children ages 5 to 11 and 100% effective in teens ages 12 to 15.

Although vaccinated people can still contract Covid and spread it, they are less likely to develop serious illness and spread the disease than those who are unvaccinated and contract Covid-19. High vaccination coverage in a population also reduces the spread of the virus and helps prevent new variants from emerging.

“The Covid-19 vaccine is the best way to keep your child safe and protect them against Covid-19, including the Delta variant,” according to a statement from the U.S. Department of Education on Nov. 4. “Kids are being infected with Covid-19, occasionally leading to serious illness and even death in certain cases. Even if your child doesn’t get severely ill, they could be diagnosed with what is known as ‘long Covid’ and face long-term health consequences or pass the virus on to others.”

### **How can Covid-19 impact a child’s health?**

Covid can cause long-term health problems, including infertility, “brain fog” and multisystem inflammatory syndrome, in which the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes or other organs become inflamed, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although most children will have mild symptoms and get better on their own, there have been 6.4 million reported cases of Covid-19 in children under 18, about 16% of all cases nationwide, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Children make up 22% of the U.S. population. Almost 900 have died.

In the 5-to-11 age group alone, there have been more than 2 million reported cases of Covid in the United States, resulting in 8,300 hospitalizations and 146 deaths, making it one of the top 10 leading causes of death for children in that age group, said Dr. Janet Woodcock, acting FDA commissioner.

Complications from the disease include pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, multi-organ failure, septic shock and death.

### **Is the vaccine safe for my child?**

The FDA has found the vaccines safe and effective for children. In California and other Western states, the trials and other research have also been reviewed by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup. All groups found the vaccines to be safe and effective for children.

There are many myths circulating on social media about the vaccine. The vaccines don’t contain metals or ingredients that would make a person magnetic. They don’t contain microchips to track people and because they don’t contain the virus, they don’t cause people to shed the virus inside or outside their body, according to the CDC.

“Parents and guardians can rest assured that we conducted a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of the data on the vaccine safety and effectiveness, and that this vaccine meets our high standards,” Woodcock said after the approval of the vaccine for children ages 5 to 11.

Vaccine trials for the 5-to-11 age group included 4,600 children, and no serious side effects were detected, Woodcock said. Vaccine trials for the 12-to-15 age group included 2,200 children, with only mild to moderate side effects.

The pediatric vaccine will be given in two doses 21 days apart, like the adult dose. But the doses will only be 10 micrograms — or a third the amount of the adult dose. Adolescents 12 and older get the same dose of Pfizer vaccine as adults.

The Pfizer shot is an mRNA vaccine, which uses a harmless piece of “spike protein” to trigger an immune response in the body, according to the CDC. The Pfizer vaccine itself is new, but mRNA vaccines have been researched for decades. The vaccine doesn’t contain a live virus.

### **Does the vaccine have side effects?**

Many people report they have had no side effects from the Covid vaccine. When there are side effects, the most common, for children and adults, are sore arms at the site of the shot, fatigue and mild fever, said Dr. Norma Perez, a pediatrician and medical director of AltaMed Health Services in Los Angeles.

Other potential side effects could include headache, chills, muscle pain, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, nausea and decreased appetite, according to the Mayo Clinic. The side effects usually occur within two days of the vaccination and last one to three days.

In rare instances, the vaccine can cause heart inflammation called myocarditis. In trials, no children ages 5 to 11 contracted the illness, although older children, especially boys, are more susceptible, according to the CDC. Symptoms include chest pain, shortness of breath and feeling a fast-beating or pounding heart. If a child has those symptoms, seek medical care. Most cases are mild and patients recover at home.

Children are much more likely to contract myocarditis from Covid-19 than from the vaccine, health officials said.

### **How do I prepare my child for a vaccine?**

The CDC recommends:

- Talk to your child about what to expect.
- Do not give your child a pain reliever before a vaccination to try to prevent side effects because it could impact how well the vaccine works.
- Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies your child may have.
- You should stay at the vaccination site for 15 to 30 minutes after the vaccine is administered in case of a severe allergic reaction.
- Your child should be seated during the vaccination and during the waiting period to prevent injury in case of fainting.

### **Does my child need to be vaccinated if he has already had Covid?**

Yes. A CDC study of Kentucky residents showed that unvaccinated individuals are twice as likely to be re-infected with Covid than vaccinated people. The CDC recommends that everyone be vaccinated even if they have had the disease.

There is some level of immunity after a Covid-19 infection, but its duration is unpredictable. A Yale study, published in October, reports that immunity from Covid after recovering from an infection can last from three to 61 months.

## **Where can my child receive a vaccination?**

Vaccines for children are available at clinics, doctor's offices and schools across California. The state is launching a public information campaign to encourage children and their parents to get vaccinated.

If your child's pediatrician or school isn't offering vaccinations, parents can check with their local health department to see where vaccination clinics are being held or call their local pharmacy to see if it is taking appointments for pediatric Covid shots.

Parents can also search the California Department of Public Health's My Turn website to find a vaccination clinic or make an appointment for a vaccination.

## **Will I be required to get my child vaccinated?**

California's school Covid-19 vaccine mandate, the nation's first, applies to all students in kindergarten through 12th grade in public, charter and private schools, and all school employees. It goes into effect in the first semester, either Jan. 1 or July 1, following the FDA's full approval of the Covid vaccine for each age group.

Only the Pfizer vaccine is fully approved for people 16 and older. The Pfizer vaccine has emergency authorization for use in children between the ages of 5 and 11 and adolescents between the ages of 11 and 15.

The requirement follows vaccine mandates in several California school districts for students 12 and over, including Los Angeles Unified, San Diego Unified, Sacramento City Unified, Culver City Unified and Oakland Unified. Newsom encouraged other districts to enact their own mandates ahead of the state's plan.

There is precedent for requiring vaccinations. Under state law, children at public K-12 schools must be immunized against 10 serious communicable diseases if they want to attend public or private schools and child care centers in person.

"The rules are not new; they are well established. In a way, this is the most predictable announcement that we've had in this pandemic," Newsom said. "Every parent is already familiar with these requirements. This is just another vaccine."

## **Are there exemptions to the school vaccination mandate?**

The requirement leaves open the possibility for families to opt out of the Covid-19 vaccine. Because the mandate comes from the governor, and not the Legislature, it allows exemptions for medical, religious or personal reasons.

Students with these exemptions can attend school in person, said state Sen. Richard Pan, a pediatrician who chairs the Senate Health Committee. Students who choose independent study, which allows them to study from home, won't have to file an exemption or get vaccinated, he said.

But the exemption rules could change. State legislators have indicated they are considering legislation to strengthen the vaccine requirement, which could include eliminating some exemptions or outlining how families must obtain exemptions.

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number SL-1**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Edith Navarro, Administrator  
Cabinet Approval:



Regarding: Exercise Your Brain Website

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the update and redesign of the Curriculum and Instruction website "Exercise Your Brain."

When the pandemic forced schools to close on March 13, 2020, the "Exercise Your Brain" website was immediately created and launched to offer families and children lessons for all grade levels and all content areas. These lessons were also printed and distributed to families during meal distributions at schools.

Upon the return to school, instead of closing the website, Curriculum and Instruction repurposed these valuable resources to support learning at home. During the pandemic, many parents and guardians became even closer partners in education with their children. The website is designed to foster this valuable partnership with resources that provide families and students with extra learning and practice opportunities.

An updated icon has been placed on the district's home page that links to grade level and content lessons and activities. These lessons are translated in Spanish and Hmong whenever possible. Over 11 different departments have collaborated in this design so that students, with their parents, guardians, or caregivers can access electronic and printable resources, such as high frequency words, and math facts. The website also includes interactive lessons designed to be done with their student and parent as well as educational links that are set up to reinforce skills taught at school.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Carlos Castillo at 457-3554.

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: November 19, 2021

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number SL-2**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Edward Gomes, Instructional Superintendent  
Cabinet Approval:

Date: November 19, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3781

Regarding: Semester One Additional 30 Minutes of Instructional Time

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update on the status and use of the extra instructional time provided to all students during the first semester of 2021. Time was added as part of Fresno Unified's Pandemic Recovery Plan to help respond to student learning needs and the instructional time that students lost during the pandemic – which was approximately 50% less time learning directly from their teacher in 2020/21 than in a regular, in person school year. This additional time for students and teachers was designed collaboratively with the Fresno Teachers Association through collective bargaining.

Below are the examples of how schools have designed and are using their extra 30 minutes of extra instructional time to address student learning needs.

**Elementary Schools:**

At all elementary school sites, teachers and site leaders worked collaboratively to design the content of the additional time, with a focus on literacy and mathematics. All schools utilize this additional time as part of their school-wide multi-tiered system of support. Though the design varies by school, all school models include one or more of the methods below:

- Providing academic intervention to at-risk students
- Utilizing digital tools to personalize and extend learning time for students, such as iReady, F.I.R.S.T, and/or Reflex Math.
- Accelerating daily instruction through extended time to support rigor and provide deeper access to learn the content.
- Opportunities to engage students in interdisciplinary projects that require and develop literacy and/or mathematics skills.
- Providing time to connect with students around social emotional supports following 5 quarters of not being in space together with peers

**Middle Schools:**

At all middle school sites, teachers and site leaders worked collaboratively to design the content of the additional time, with a focus on literacy and mathematics. Given the multi-period schedules of middle schools, there were multiple design options for the time, including one 30-minute block each day as a 'single' new period, dividing the 30 minutes out equally between the existing periods, and more.

- Most middle schools added a 30-minute instructional block dedicated to English Language Arts and/or Mathematics support and intervention
- During these instructional blocks, teachers intervene on students who need additional supports on their literacy and math instruction and accelerate students who already understand the content
- The method mostly used for the intervention is iReady lessons within the intervention block that is adaptive based on their August administration. Teachers pull small groups during this time for additional, direct support.

### **High Schools:**

At our high school sites, the additional 30 minutes was divided equally among the existing class periods.

- Additional time extends to all subject areas of classroom instruction to allow for student interventions, additional tier 1 time with students and social emotional supports for students

At the high school level, additional investments were also made beyond the school day to support expanded credit recovery options for students who fell behind in credits required for graduation and/or to meet college entrance requirements.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Edward Gomes at 457-3781.

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: November 19, 2021

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Communication

**BC Number SL-3**

From the Office of the Superintendent  
To the Members of the Board of Education  
Prepared by: Edward Gomes, Instructional Superintendent  
Cabinet Approval: 

Regarding: School Site Tutoring Options

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update on current tutoring options available to students:

During the instructional day, our students are receiving targeted help within a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. Additionally, all students in Fresno Unified have access to tutoring services to extend their learning beyond the school day. Students at all grade levels have on-demand access to grade level and content area-specific tutoring, 7 days a week, through Tutor.com and Khan Academy virtual platforms. Students can use their personal and/or district-issued devices to access these platforms any day after school or on weekends, when it is convenient to students and their families.

In addition to Tutor.com and Khan Academy, which is centrally funded for all students in the district, all schools are using their SPSA funds to offer tutoring. All schools can provide after-school tutoring to students, using their own site teachers in a small group setting and/or using contracted providers.

Below are some examples of contracted tutoring services currently utilized at Fresno Unified schools:

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 To 1 Study Buddy              | Future Stars Tutoring     |
| 1 Tutors, Inc.                  | Imagine Learning          |
| 24 Horas de Tutoria             | K-12 Tutors, Inc          |
| A4 Dept After School            | Khan Academy              |
| Academia De Servicio De Tutoria | Kids Discover Tutor       |
| Ace It! Tutoring/Sylvan         | Kuman Math Tutoring       |
| Ace Tutoring Services, Inc      | Mobile Minds Tutoring     |
| 1 At-Home Tutors, Inc.          | Skillstutor               |
| Apex Learning Inc.              | Snap Learning Llc         |
| Aspire Speech and learning      | TC Online Tutoring        |
| Ca Teaching Fellows Foundation  | Teaching Fellows          |
| California Tutoring Co          | Tutoria Academic Tutoring |
| CenCal Tutoring                 | Tutor.com                 |
| Club Z! In-Home Tutoring        | Tutorial Services Inc     |
| Edgenuity Online School         | Tutorworks Inc            |
| Education and Leadership        | Varsity Tutors            |
| Encourage Tomorrow              |                           |
| Eurgubian Academic Center       |                           |

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Edward Gomes at 457-3781.

Approved by Superintendent  
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: November 19, 2021