SMMUSD Plan for Reopening Schools - August 2020

Board of Education Meeting

July 16, 2020

Timeline & Process

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept. →
CA State "Stay at Home" Order (distance learning started)	▓▓	▓▓	▓▓				
EOC & principal meetings re: distance learning logistics & end-of-year activities & summer school	▓▓	▓▓	▓▓				
Parent/staff survey re: reopening			▓				
Meetings re: reopening of schools (EOC; district leadership & principal working group; teaching & learning redesign working group)				▓▓	▓▓	░░	
Superintendent presented reopening models to parent groups & unions				▓▓			
Town Hall meetings to present reopening models; 2nd parent survey					▓		
Governor reclosed some indoor activities (rise in COVID-19 cases)					●		
Board approves Reopening of Schools Plan					●		
District continues to monitor county's guidance for reopening & makes any necessary changes to plan						░░	
1st semester starts							●
District regularly assesses reopening model							░░

Three Models that Were Considered

Addressing Student Needs, Parent/Guardian Needs, & Available District Resources

OR   **AND**

A. In-Class Learning *(w/ Virtual Learning Academy Only Option)*	B. Hybrid of In-Class & Distance Learning *(w/ Virtual Learning Academy Only Option)*	C. Distance Learning *(w/ Virtual Learning Academy Only Option)*
All students return to school in-class five days per week. A family can opt for the virtual learning academy only. *NOTE: Given the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation, we might need to start school under one model and move to another.*	Students divided into two cohorts. Variations include: Alternating days: 'A' in-class Mon. & Tues., 'B' in-person Thurs. & Fri. Other three days are distance learning. Alternating weeks: "A" in-class one week & distance learning the next week; vice versa for 'B.' A family can opt for the virtual learning academy only.	All students participate in distance learning only. Some specific programs can be served in-person (arts, labs, teams, specific special ed programs). Families that opt for the virtual learning academy will begin & remain in the academy.

Pros/Cons Summary of Each Model

Model A	Model B	Model C
PROS: ● Daily PreK: 10 students/ classroom (higher fee) ● Daily social development, a routine, & robust educational experience (incld. special needs) ● Allows parents/guardians to return to work ● Allows families to choose virtual learning academy CONS: ● Limited physical distancing ● Potential lack of before- & after-school child care (or higher fees) ● Cost/availability of PPE ● Fewer seats on all buses	PROS: ● Daily PreK: 10 students/ classroom (higher fee) ● 2 or 4 days/week of social development, a routine, & robust educational experience (incld. special needs) ● Provides for better physical distancing ● Allows families to choose virtual learning academy CONS: ● Child supervision on off-days ● Potential lack of before- & after-school child care for previously-served families (or higher fees) ● Cost/availability of PPE ● Fewer seats on all buses	PROS: ● Best way to prevent disease spread ● Clearer expectations than spring 2020 ● Online preschool option ● Allow teaching/learning from home ● Most affordable model ● Allows families to choose virtual learning academy CONS: ● Child supervision issue ● No childcare available ● Impact to student physical well-being, mental health, & educational experience

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Parent & Staff Survey Results

Link to staff and parent surveys

Our District's Priorities

Factors that Have Influenced Decision re: Reopening

1. ## Student Safety
   - Physical Health
   - Social-emotional Health
2. ## Employee Safety
   - Physical Health
   - Social-emotional Health
3. ## Quality of Instruction
   - Meeting the needs of our most vulnerable students
4. ## Maintaining Fiscal Solvency

State & County Guidelines

LA County Department of Public Health
new protocols for reopening schools

What Are the Experts Saying?

"Right now, everything is pointing to an alarming trend."

- Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director, LA County Dept. Public Health

"Returning to school is important for the healthy development and well-being of children, but we must pursue re-opening in a way that is safe for all students, teachers and staff. Science should drive decision-making on safely reopening schools. Public health agencies must make recommendations based on evidence, not politics. We should leave it to health experts to tell us when the time is best to open up school buildings, and listen to educators and administrators to shape how we do it."

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),
American Federation of Teachers (AFT),
National Education Association (NEA) and AASA,
The School Superintendents Association
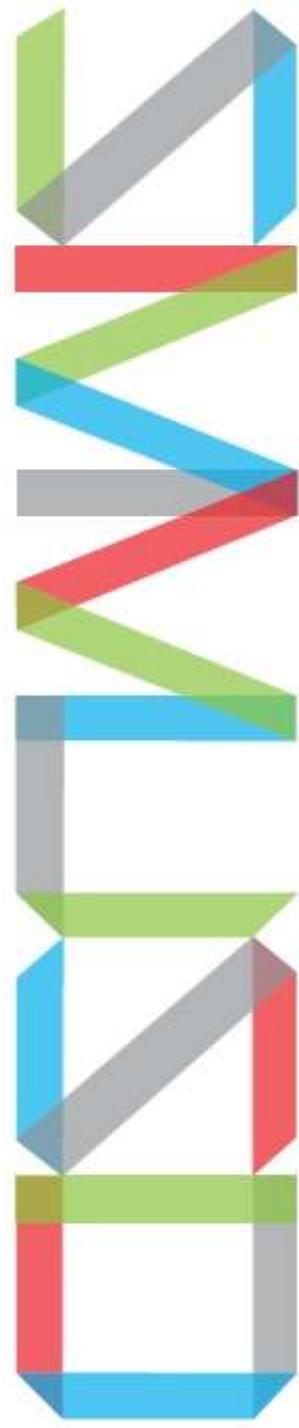
Reopening Plan - Fall 2020

August 2020

- Our district will plan to open schools under <u>Model C</u>
  - (all students participate in distance learning)

Goal

- Reopen for in-class learning when we are able to meet LA County Dept. of Public Health protocols & when COVID-19 data improves

Reopening Plan - Fall 2020

Guiding Principles for Recommendation

- Safest option for students, staff, & families, given recent surge in COVID-19 cases
- Redesign of distance learning (began in June) with professional development for teachers (in August)
- Additional time to procure necessary equipment & meet recent LACDPH protocols to reopen schools
- Balance input from staff, parents/guardians, advisory groups, PTA, student leaders, teaching & learning working groups, other superintendents, unions

Under Model C, we will:

- Will determine how to serve specific programs in-person for vulnerable populations
- Examining possibilities for before- & after-school child care & student supervision during school day

Next Steps: Model C

Continue to address the details related to:

- All students:
  - Distance learning professional development for all educators, including technology/software, student attendance & engagement, grading & assessments, & addressing learning loss & student social-emotional needs
  - Distributing learning materials & devices, as needed
  - Child care/student supervision
  - Serving meals
  - Addressing IEP & 504 requirements

- Special populations that will be on campus:
  - Maintaining a consistent supply of PPE & cleaning materials
  - Training health office staff & maintenance staff
  - Campus operations & protocols (e.g., cleaning, signage, how students & staff move around campus, restroom times, lunch)

- Preparing for in-class instruction to resume, when safe

Next Steps: Planning for In-Class Learning

We will continue to address the details related to:

- Continuous improvement on distance learning
- Child care/student supervision
- Serving meals
- Registration process & timeline for virtual learning academy
- Bus transportation
- Maintaining a consistent supply of PPE, cleaning materials, hand washing stations, hand sanitizer dispensers, thermometers
- Training health office staff & maintenance staff
- Logistics for special groups of students
- Building cohort master schedule for grades TK-12
- Campus operations & protocols (e.g., cleaning, signage, how students & staff move around the campus, restroom times, lunch)
- Staffing the cohort classes & virtual learning academy
- Student attendance & engagement for distance learning days
- Grading & assessing learning commonalities across grades levels, subjects, and schools

Communication re: Reopening Plan

- Letter from Superintendent Drati to all staff and SMMUSD families (Eng/Span)
- Information posted on SMMUSD website / all school websites
- Social media (Twitter & Facebook)
- PTA Council / SMMCTA / SEIU leadership
- Malibu & Santa Monica City officials
- Malibu & Santa Monica media
- Community email group (sign up on home page)
- Site leadership will further engage parents / staff

Board members' questions & comments