



# Pacific Union School District

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Superintendent: Rene L. McBride

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February 12, 2021

Dear Pacific Union Families,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and well. If there is one lesson we've learned through this pandemic, it's that what was true yesterday can completely change in a very short amount of time. As of January 14, 2021, all school districts in California have been provided with guidance regarding in-person instruction. This fifty page document supersedes all previous guidelines, with the exception of [cohorts](#). Below is how the new guidance will impact Pacific Union School District (PUSD)

## Per COVID-19 Guidance:

- PUSD was considered "open" in the Fall. By definition: "...the school must have given all students in at least one grade the option to return for in-person instruction for at least part of the school week to be considered to "open" or "reopen." In two of our primary grades and one intermediate grade this opportunity was given when we opened our learning hubs on campus.
- PUSD can reopen in the Purple Tier after posting the [COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist](#) on their website by February 1, 2021. This was posted on the District's website on February 1, 2021.
- PUSD must also complete the [COVID-19 Prevention Plan \(CPP\)](#). This is a prevention plan that can also be found on the District's website.
- New research and data from [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) and [Centers for Disease and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) supports schools reopening in the primary grades.

As we have stated in the past, PUSD will follow the research and science when making decisions for our students and staff. Due to being considered "open" in the Fall, and the new research, we will start where we left off in the Fall and begin phasing in our primary grade levels into our [hybrid/blended learning plan](#) beginning Tuesday, February 23rd. As we get closer to phasing in 4th grade, we will evaluate whether we will phase in Site-Based Instruction in the Purple or Red tier. While in the Purple Tier we will not begin phasing in 5th-8th grades until we are at least in the Red Tier. Our local data supports these decisions. In March, we will begin to offer classroom learning hubs to 5th-8th grades and possibly 4th grade if we do not provide the opportunity to phase them into Site-Based Instruction. We will follow the cohort guidance when bringing students back on campus.

Distance Learning will always be an option for families. It might look a little different, but there will still be daily live Zoom interaction. Most likely the majority of the synchronous (live Zooms) learning will happen in the afternoons for Distance Learning students. Our goal for students is to keep them in their current class with their teacher, but we might have to reconfigure some classes based on what parents/guardians choose to have their child participate in. A survey will be sent out to families regarding their choice to continue in distance learning or to participate in site-based instruction. Teachers will also be communicating with families to check in on their plans. When we begin phasing in your child's grade level we will be asking families to make a commitment to either Distance Learning or Site-Based Instruction for the remainder of the school year.

If your family chooses Site-Based Instruction please know that we will be enforcing the [travel guidance](#) put forth by Humboldt County Public Health. At this time, if your family travels you will be asked to participate in Distance Learning for two weeks. Please also know that if we have to quarantine a cohort due to exposure to COVID-19 your child will move to Distance Learning for two weeks. Below are a few more important reminders for Site-Based Instruction.

- All students must wear a facemask, social distancing will be practiced, hand washing is a must (foam in, foam out), parent/guardian must complete the health screening daily and attest to the questions being asked.
- Transportation and childcare will not be offered, students will be on campus during an AM or PM shift for 3 hours a day Tuesday through Friday. We might have to reconfigure classrooms based on what families choose to do.

I know many of you will have questions and we are more than willing to try and answer them, but we might not be able to give you exact information until we receive a commitment from families regarding their choice to continue in Distance Learning or participate in Site-Based Instruction. Below is our tentative schedule that may change due to COVID-19 circumstances.

Grade Level	Site-Based Instruction Available
Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten	Tuesday, February 23rd
Pause, Plan, and Evaluate	Week of March 1st
First and 2nd Grade	Tuesday, March 9th
3rd Grade	Tuesday, March 16th
4th Grade (We will evaluate the tier and decide if we will begin hybrid/blended learning or learning hubs.)	Tuesday, March 23rd
5th-8th Grades Classroom Learning Hubs	Tuesday, March 23rd
5th-8th grades will begin phasing into hybrid/blended learning when county numbers are trending down in the Red Tier	TBD

I know this is a lot of information and there are still quite a few unknowns. We will send out more concrete information when we can. As always, thank you for your continued support and working with us to make sure we can provide choice to our families and opportunities to our students in a safe and healthy way.

Sincerely,

*Rene L. McBride*