



Pacific Union School District
Letter and FAQ



August 4, 2020

Dear Pacific Union Families,

What a crazy summer this has been! We are getting closer to the start of the school year and I know all of you have been wondering how we are going to open school. We will have a board meeting on Thursday, August 6th at 4:00 p.m. to make this final decision. If you would like to join us please follow the Zoom link on the top of the [agenda](#) that is located on our District's website.

I have also created a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page to share with all of you. These questions were based on the survey that went out a week ago. Thank you all for participating in the survey and sharing your thoughts and feedback. I truly do value your input and it helps with planning.

I hope everyone is doing well and I will send out an update regarding the start of the school year on Friday, August 7th.

As always, thank you for your continued support, patience, and understanding. We are truly in this together and I continue to be grateful for such a wonderful community.

All my best,

Rene L. McBride

Pacific Union School District, Superintendent



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Q: Will there be another board meeting before the start of school?

A: Yes, we had a couple special board meetings in June and July and will have another one on Thursday, August 6th at 4:00 p.m. The [Zoom link](#) is on the District's [website](#). There will also be a regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, August 20th.

Q: If we are in a blended model can I choose distance learning and not have my student on campus?

A: Yes, we are trying to provide our families with as much choice as possible. At any point families can choose to participate in distance learning only. We ask that if you choose distance learning and the district is providing a blended learning model that you commit for at least one trimester and then reevaluate at the end of the trimester. We will also work with families that already know they would like to participate only in distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Q: Will packets still be provided during distance learning?

A: Yes, we will be working with all our families to make sure that each child can access their education either through packets, computers, or phone calls.

Q: Will all lessons be recorded?

A: Not necessarily. Teachers will provide lessons through Zoom, recordings, and online curriculum. Teachers will work with families to make sure students are receiving the instruction they need to be successful.

Q: Does my child have to wear a mask if we are participating in a blending model?

A: Yes, all students, staff, and teachers will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

Q: How do you expect me to work and provide for my family with these options?

A: I know how difficult this is for everyone. The stress and uncertainty can be overwhelming. Please know we understand the hardship any plan other than bringing students back full time is putting on families. Unfortunately there really isn't a good answer. We understand there are many points of view on the severity of this pandemic, but we must follow science and recommended guidance in opening schools.

Q: Will distance learning be different than last year?

A: Yes. There are new requirements to distance learning. We are in the process of updating our distance learning plan to reflect the new requirements. A few to note are: teachers will be interacting daily with students, students will have peer interactions (through zoom), attendance will be taken, there are instructional minute requirements. I will send out the updated distance learning plan soon.



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Q: Will aftercare be available?

A: No, we will not be able to offer aftercare this year unless a time comes when we no longer have to cohort or practice social distancing.

Q: Will transportation still be available?

A: If we are providing a blended model we might be able to offer very limited transportation (i.e. family does not have a vehicle and is not within walking distance). This final decision has not been made.

Q: When will the final decision be made regarding opening the school year?

A: At the August 6th Special Board meeting. At the July board meeting we were leaning towards starting in the blended model, but needed to watch and see what was going on with COVID-19 as we got closer to the start of school. With the numbers increasing across the county and taking in all the information that we are learning from other schools that have tried to open it is looking like we might have to shift to starting school in distance learning.