

July 14, 2020

Dear SMUSD Parents,

In previous updates, I've shared our [SMUSD design process](#) for reopening schools. Key in this planning includes [operational/global assumptions](#) with a focus on the health and safety of students and staff members, [overarching goals](#)--ensuring one year of academic growth, acceleration and remediating learning loss and meeting [State funding, instruction and accountability requirements](#).

Throughout the process, our plans have included providing families an option--in person or virtual school. Be assured that plans for in person instruction include robust safety mitigating layers for both students and staff (including lowering class size to guarantee 6 feet physical distancing in every class, masks/face shields/gaiters for students and staff, three sided plexiglass for students and staff, mandatory temperature checks, frequent handwashing, hand sanitizer, one way hallways, plans for entering/exiting campus, among many others). In addition, we're also exploring additional air filtration systems and rapid response tests.

With the health and safety of our students and staff at the forefront and the importance of a strong instructional program guiding our work, we have developed possible models that will allow students to either return to school in-person in a modified traditional model (with all of the safety mitigation as itemized above) for elementary; return to school with a combination of in-person and virtual learning (middle school and high school); or return to school in a fully virtual environment (elementary and secondary). Like all school districts, we are closely monitoring Governor Newsom's Executive Orders (they currently do not affect schools), following guidelines from our State and local public health officials and attend weekly health tele-briefings to stay apprised of all developments. We continue to adjust and modify plans based on these developments.

We [surveyed](#) our community's preference in late May. We recognize that parents may have a new preferred model for their child(ren) based on current community spread trend data. Before we officially present school reopening options to the School Board on July 21, please take a moment to complete a brief survey for each of your children. This will provide us valuable and current data that will help us to fine tune reopening plan options. At this time, we are not asking parents to commit to a particular model for the 20/21 school year (that will come in the near future after we receive Board direction); however, your preference will provide numbers that will be critical in guiding our District's next steps. To take the brief survey, please click here: <https://forms.gle/Kq53P6fo8XVJkQHx8>. Please complete the survey by Saturday at midnight.

Thank you,
Dr. Garcia
Superintendent