

September 21, 2020

Good Evening SMUSD Community,

Hello and welcome to a new week. It is my sincere hope that all of you were able to take a much needed screen break this weekend to enjoy at least a few precious moments in our beautiful California sunshine.

Much has transpired since last week; however, this evening's message will cover the most pressing to our reopening plans.

Purple Tier

You may have heard the news that the County of San Diego will likely be moved on Tuesday to the lowest tier of the state reopening system and wonder what it means for SMUSD. The new "purple" tier designation means that SMUSD will not be permitted to open our campuses for in-person instruction until the County has returned to the "red" tier and remained there for two weeks.

Placement within the tiers are re-assessed every three weeks; as such, the following timeline represents the best case scenario for an SMUSD in-person return.

- **September 22:** San Diego County enters into "purple" tier
- **October 13:** 1st day San Diego County can move back into "red" tier
- **October 28:** 1st day schools in San Diego County can reopen

This news is a set-back to the timeline of our in-person instructional return; however, we are permitted to provide small cohorts of students with in-person support while the County is in "purple" and we remain in remote instruction. We will be working on this with our site administrators along with our classified and certificated labor partners to determine the best way we can begin offering this option to our students most in need. Additionally, the California Department of Public Health has authorized the County of San Diego to resume a process for schools to apply for reopening waivers for elementary students; we are exploring that option to determine if it will allow us to resume in-person instruction on our TK-5 campuses closer to our original timeline.

We understand how disappointing this is for our students and families who have been waiting for our schools to open, and for all of our employees who have been working diligently to create and implement plans to safely reopen our campuses. We know you have been planning for this return and that the new restriction on reopening may have a ripple effect on your jobs, child care arrangements, and more. We are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to work with local public health as we move forward. I will also continue to share updates as they become available.

The Show Will Go On

As I mentioned above, this latest news regarding the County's move into "purple" is this evening's most pressing concern. However, this week you will also receive further communication regarding a re-survey of our families in preparation for second semester in-person learning and I will continue to research and provide answers to ongoing questions related to our current remote instruction model and reopening plans.

Please [click here](#) to view an **important** update from the San Marcos Unified Technology Department regarding Zoom.

I appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we adjust to these ever-changing conditions.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Campbell, Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent