



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Alhambra Unified School District Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. I write today with an important update regarding the 2020-2021 school year.

Less than a month ago I wrote to you with information on the various instructional models the District was preparing to implement in the fall. Although I requested that each family select either the 100% Distance Learning or In-Person Hybrid program for their child(ren), I also explained that we all needed to be ready to transition between the models as health & safety conditions warranted. Thank you to the over 14,000 parents who responded to that letter. Your responses are critical in helping us plan for the upcoming school year.

In all situations we remain committed to doing what's right for our students and staff, which at its very core includes ensuring their health and well-being. In recent weeks, we have watched as the number and rate of positive COVID-19 cases surged throughout Los Angeles County and other areas around the country. Simultaneously, we have heard the endless stream of opinions circulating in the media, all claiming to know what is best for our schools. As has been the case since the onset of this pandemic, our decision to open or close schools has been and will continue to be based on official guidance from local and state health and government authorities.

Today, California Governor Gavin Newsom released new guidance on the reopening of California schools. In that guidance, he specifically ordered that all schools in the 32 counties on the State's COVID-19 monitoring list cannot resume in-person learning until specific local health criteria are met. Los Angeles County is on the State's monitoring list and we expect the L.A. County Department of Public Health (DPH) to release a new Health Order today, adhering to the Governor's order.

In compliance with the above, **AUSD will begin the 2020-2021 school year in Distance Learning.** We will continue to work closely with the L.A. County Department of Public Health, and keep you informed of updated information as we receive it. I recognize that this announcement comes as disappointing news to many, and like you, I look forward to the day when we can resume instruction in a more familiar manner. In the meantime, we can all take pride in the fact that we are doing our part to keep our students and staff safe.

Distance Learning Update

Throughout the summer, our teachers and administrators have been working to refine our 2020-2021 Distance Learning Program so that it meets the needs of all learners. Their commitment to ensuring our students' success is evident in the quality program they are collaboratively building. Specific details regarding Distance Learning will be released in the weeks to come. Some highlights include:

- Assignments will be monitored and graded.
- Daily attendance and participation will be tracked.
- Grade level standards will be implemented.
- Combination of live and recorded instruction will take place.
- Daily live interaction with teachers and peers will be required.
- More of a typical school day schedule will be followed.

Throughout the remainder of the summer, we will continue to share information regarding Distance Learning and other aspects of our school programs and services. Additionally, we will schedule grade-span specific meetings to answer your questions and seek your input.

During these last several months, I have been overwhelmed and awed by the strength of our community and the outpouring of help and assistance offered for our schools, students, families and staff. It's very clear that our community cares about one another. Almost daily I receive calls or emails from parents, students, staff, neighbors, non-profits, businesses, civic leaders and so many others, all inquiring about how they can be of help. There is no doubt that we are working through this as a community, and we will get through it together.

I wish you and your family a safe, healthy, and restful summer.

Respectfully,



Denise R. Jaramillo
Superintendent

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