

Superintendent Chat FAQ

1.13.21

In-Person Teaching and Learning

What are the benchmarks that the Board is hoping to see to launch TK-2 blended learning? **Based on the discussion from the Governing Board meeting, the greatest concern is around staff and student safety aligned to the data connected to COVID positivity rate, ICU numbers, and direction from LA County Department of Public Health.**

Is there talk about not returning in person for this school year? It seems worse to keep saying we will open, then not...? **Yes, the Board and staff have every intention of launching our blended learning model once the numbers are under control and the LA County Department of Health deems it to be safe.**

Is there a possibility that the back and forth stops and we just finish the school year out online? **The Governing Board and I have every intention of bringing back students as soon as possible.**

What is the downside for being consistent and keeping TK-2 home for the rest of this year, just like all the other grades, given there is light at the end of the tunnel for the school year as well as available vaccinations? **Our teachers have done an amazing job in distance learning, but I think we would all agree that in-person teaching and learning is preferred both from the academic side, but also the social-emotional side.**

What data is LA County using to determine in school learning is causing spreads? Are we essentially being bucketed with LA vs specifically what's happening here in our valley? **Under current regulations, all decisions are based on the County a school district resides. Since NSD is part of LA County, our orders and direction are based on that direction. LA County continues to review COVID positivity rates and ICU capacity.**

Parents were surveyed various times for application of waivers or not. Surveys to see if the parents were comfortable to come back to school or not. Why were parents not surveyed about returning or not returning next week? If we meet all the PPE requirement, have everything in place for protection, and parents are ready to go....the board can still decide not to let students back based on their own opinions? **The last time parents were surveyed about returning on January 11th or pushing the date out. Those results yielded that 55% of the parents wanted to return on the 11th and 45% of the parents wanted the date pushed out, most wanting it pushed to February 1st. Survey results are always shared with the Board to inform their discussions. Ultimately the Governing Board is elected to make these decisions.**

Vaccine

What is the latest information on the vaccine? **All school personnel are part of Phase 1B, Tier 1. LA County Department of Public Health anticipates that staff should begin to have access by late January/early February. Nurses and Health Techs are currently eligible to receive the vaccine.**

LAUSD announced something about possibly requiring vaccines in order for students to return. Is that something NSD would also ever consider? **This will not be a requirement from LA County Department of Public Health and has not been a part of any discussion within the Newhall School District.**

If vaccinations drive down the numbers, is there a possibility of a summer program? What will next year look like? **We are just beginning the conversations of strategies to support learning gaps for students. This could include additional support during the day, after school, summer school, or even an extended day.**

Social-Emotional Needs

Are the emotional and psychological harms being weighed against the physical risks to the children? **The mental anguish and psychological effects on the children are far more pronounced and wide spread than the physical risks COVID currently poses to children. The District has create a Trauma team that is in the process of creating training for staff to support the social-emotional needs of students. We continue to support having a full-time counselor at each site as well.**

Curriculum

Do you still plan to keep studies weekly or twig science and reduce the school day having the kids do those online? **These resources were purchased to support asynchronous instruction during distance learning. We will survey our teachers to get feedback on these resources moving forward.**

Childcare

Will the day care subsidies return with the new relief funds? **We will be looking at the new funds we are scheduled to receive to determine how we plan to utilize those funds moving forward. It is important to note that the subsidy the District was providing for the 400 plus students cost the District around \$50,000 per week. To sustain that same support for the remainder of the year without adding students would be over \$1,000,000.**

2021-2022 School Year

What will next year look like? **We are hopeful that things will be able to return to as close to normal as possible for students where they are on campus all day with their teacher.**