



New Public Health Recommendations Delay Return to On Campus Instruction

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Dear RUSD Families,

First, let me again thank you for your patience. We know this pandemic has been frustrating especially when it comes to being able to plan ahead for your family's needs during these ever changing times.

As always, I want to stress that the health and safety of our students, staff and families is of the utmost importance. Our Board of Trustees has been clear in their direction that we follow the guidance from state and local public health officials in our decisions. I mention this because I want to assure you, despite wanting to see our students in person as soon as possible, each step we take towards on campus learning we take with deliberate actions in compliance with guidance from public health officials.

Late this afternoon, school districts in Placer County received a new recommendation from the Placer County Public Health Officer that detailed the need for access to timely COVID -19 testing (24-48 hours) and results (48-72 hours) for students and staff, should they become symptomatic, as a necessary component to safely reopen schools. Timely testing is necessary to quickly conduct the contact tracing and quarantining that helps limit the spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open.

Due to a lack of timely COVID- 19 testing available in our county, Placer County health officials are recommending all school districts delay any kind of school re-opening until the testing issue is resolved.

A few days ago, I sent an update regarding the fact that Placer County was taken off the state's COVID-19 Monitoring List and that our goal was to return to in-person learning on September 8 in a hybrid schedule. Based on this new information from the Placer County Public Health Officer, and our commitment to following the guidance of state and public health officials to protect the safety of our students, staff, and families, **we will have to delay the return of students to our campuses and stay in distance learning until this testing capacity issue is resolved.** We are working with the Placer County Office of Education and the Placer County Public Health Office to address the need for timely testing for students and school staff so that we can remove this barrier to returning students to school.

As we have done since the beginning of this unpredictable pandemic, we will monitor and adhere to California and Placer County public health guidance and mandates.

We will continue to update you about our path to safely return to in-person learning. Thank you again for your patience and support as we know there will continue to be changes during these unprecedented times.

Roger Stock

Superintendent

Rocklin Unified School District

10/13/2020

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