



**Denair Unified School District**  
**Community • Excellence • Commitment**  
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October 14, 2020

Dear DUSD Parents and Guardians,

As you know, we have been working on plans to safely reopen schools for in-person instruction. Yesterday, Stanislaus County moved from the state's Purple Tier (Widespread Transmission) into the Red Tier (Substantial). Once in the Red Tier for 14 days, we will be eligible to reopen all schools for in-person instruction in grades PK-12. *Note: DCA will remain an independent study program.*

On October 8, the DUSD Governing Board heard about our progress on the reopening process and the wide variety of stakeholder input given to the district from June through October. Trustees had a very thoughtful discussion and provided direction to district administration about next steps.

1. Use the allowable "learning pod" guidance to provide in-person services to students who meet certain criteria that put them at higher risk for learning loss with distance learning.
2. Work with employees to develop a comprehensive plan for a hybrid model of instruction that includes all of the required health and safety requirements.
3. Begin the registration process to assist with the hybrid model planning process. Families will need to choose either 100% Distance Learning or Hybrid instruction.

While we have not yet determined a reopening date, it could be mid-November. It's important to note that reopening schools does not mean all students will come back to school five full days per week in order to meet mandated health and safety requirements. We would bring back students in groups, likely by grade ranges at the elementary level and by learning needs at the middle and high schools. The actual daily schedule and assigned teachers will depend on how many students remain on distance learning and how many students attend in-person learning. At this time, bus transportation is NOT available due to capacity restrictions.

Families of students who attend DECA, DMS or DHS will need to register for either 100% distance learning OR attend school on a hybrid model. This decision will be a 6-8 week commitment, with an opportunity to make a change sometime after Winter Break. To assist families in making the decision, we've included some additional information about what each option includes:

#### 100% Distance Learning

- No in-person instruction
- Continue daily online interaction with a teacher\*
- Continue independent work as assigned

- Continue work drop off/pick up (DECA)

#### Hybrid Model

- In-person instruction 2 days per week (families will be assigned Mon-Tue **OR** Thu-Fri)\*
- Distance Learning 3 days per week (either Wed-Fri OR Mon-Wed)\*
  - Daily online interaction with a teacher
  - Complete independent work as assigned
- School day will be 3.5 to 4 hours in length; actual times to be determined
- Stay in a cohort of no more than 12 students for the entire day, including recess/breaks
- All of the following safety precautions will be taught and strictly enforced: wearing of face coverings, handwashing, physical distancing from staff and other students, no sharing of supplies or equipment. Students who refuse to follow safety precautions will be sent home.
- Parents must certify daily that their child is free of COVID symptoms prior to drop off at school; students who appear to have symptoms or develop them during the day will be sent home immediately
- If a cohort must quarantine due to COVID exposure, students will switch to 100% distance learning for the duration of the quarantine period.

*\*Unfortunately, teacher and/or schedule changes are very likely as we reopen schools and families will not know in advance if their child's current teacher or schedule will be affected.*

**There are two ways to register:** 1) go to [denairusd.org](https://denairusd.org) and complete the [online form](#) or 2) complete the form included with this letter and return it to the school office. Please submit your registration by Thursday, October 22, 2020.

We are committed to our cautious approach to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. While we realize it may be difficult for some families to commit to one of the options (either distance learning or hybrid model), we must get an initial commitment in order to complete the planning process. Thank you for helping us move forward with reopening our campuses.

Sincerely,



Terry Metzger, Ed.D.  
Superintendent