



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 10, 2020

Superintendent's Message: Reopening Update Special Education and English Learner Services Available Soon

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

I want to provide an update regarding the reopening of schools in Los Angeles County, and state, and our response to the expectations set by our guiding agencies. As of now, all K-12 schools in California counties that are on the state's COVID-19 monitoring list, including LA County, are prohibited from reopening for in-person instruction. In compliance with this order, K-12 schools in Los Angeles County may only provide remote learning.

During this period, employees and staff, as defined below, may report to school campus for work in order to support implementation of remote learning and to support other basic school operations. All applicable measures outlined in the protocol to ensure the safety of employees have been implemented.

Waivers for opening of elementary (TK through grade 6) education are not currently being permitted in LA County. Information about the waiver process, which may be operational in the future, is available [here](#).

Most recently, the state and the LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) have authorized students with individualized education plans (IEPs), English Learners (EL), and other students requiring specialized in-school services or assessments to be allowed to return to campus in small groups. LACDPH approved districts to start as early as September 14th, however, the implementation of necessary protocols will take some time. This plan provides for a maximum of 10% of the usual student population allowed to be on campus at any one time with restrictions. Any district taking advantage of this opportunity would have to satisfy the safety protocols set forth by the county before opening.

As a district, we plan to take advantage of this opportunity and we are currently in the process of analyzing the safety protocols and aligning our would-be services to the county safety protocols. We are also engaging the staff so that they are comfortable and confident with the required and recommended safety protocols outlined by the health department.

Our team has started conversations with families and we will engage in a more formal process. Information about the district's plans to support students with IEPs and EL students will be provided to the community soon.

Sincerely,

Ben Drati, Superintendent

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