

Governing Board

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Gonzales Unified School District



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Committed to Excellence

Dear Gonzales Families,

This past week the State of California adopted a budget for 2020-2021. With the budget adoption, several pieces of legislation were also passed which had an immediate effect on our Districts ability to plan for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The state has provided some flexibility to Districts in developing local educational options for the 2020-21 school year within certain identified parameters. Two specific pieces of legislation compel the District to provide “*in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible*” while following the health and safety protocols outlined by state and local public health offices.

[SB 98](#) (Senate Bill) provides three options for providing instruction in 2020-21:

1. In-person instruction
2. Distance Learning
3. Hybrid instruction model through in-person and Distance Learning

[AB 77 Section 43503](#) (Assembly Bill) requires all schools to offer a distance learning option “under either of the following circumstances:

- (A) On a local educational agency or school wide level as a result of an order or guidance from a state public health officer or a local public health officer;
- (B) For pupils who are medically fragile or would be put at risk by in-person instruction, or who are self-quarantining because of exposure to COVID-19.”

County and state health guidelines continue to require students and staff to social distance, not mix cohorts (i.e. remain in consistent groups), establish class sizes which allow for a minimum of six feet of distance between students (an average of 12-16 students per class in GUSD), and requires the use of masks by all staff and students (over the age of two).

Using the information provided to us by our June parent and staff surveys ([Click here for survey results](#)), and the June 30th update to state guidelines, Gonzales Unified, is preparing to possibly implement the three models identified in SB 98. This is necessitated by community need and the fluid status of the COVID-19 pandemic. The models that will be offered in the Fall **based upon the information we have at this time are:**

- Four day a week full day instruction (five days for identified subgroups);
- Hybrid Model (with structure details to follow);
- Full Distance Learning

In order to determine program participation, we are asking each family to complete a student preference form. The link can be found here: [Return to School Preference Form](#).

For families requesting a hybrid model, please keep in mind, our schools will not be providing childcare. If childcare is needed, please click here [Childcare Information](#) for details about childcare available in our area.

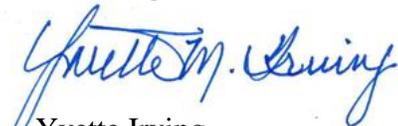
Please complete the preference form by July 20, 2020. One form will be need to be completed for each child/student enrolled. ***Selection(s) will be in effect for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year at this time.***

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to a parent meeting on July 16, 2020, the English session will take place at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Spanish. At this meeting we will update the community on our progress to enhancing student/staff safety, new transportation protocols, changes in educational/instructional programming and statistics regarding COVID-19 in our community and District.

At this time, we continue to look forward to seeing all students return to school on August 13, 2020 regardless of instructional model.

For questions regarding this information, please contact Yvette M. Irving, Superintendent at 831-675-0100, extension 8110 or via email at yirving@gonzales.k12.ca.us.

Warm regards,



Yvette Irving