

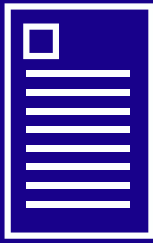


Alpine Union School District

DRAFT PLAN FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

2020-2021

Presented to the Board of Trustees
June 24, 2020



Message from the Superintendent

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted every facet of our lives. Each of us has been forced to make changes to our daily life that would have been unimaginable prior to this moment in time. Since our schools closed on March 13, 2020, we have been asked to limit our interactions with others, wear face coverings, and alter our very way of life. We realize that these changes are overwhelming, especially for children, and that many of their days have been filled with our shared sense of uncertainty, trauma, and grief.

Our children will continue to navigate in a very uncertain world, and as a District, our goal is to create a safe, healthy and welcoming environment where our students can find their passions and reach their potential. We believe strongly that schools are essential to ensuring our students are prepared to be both successful citizens and future leaders. In education, we often discuss the importance of teaching critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. These four “C”s are considered vital skills that students must master to be successful in the 21st century. However, especially in this time of COVID-19, our students have been forced to miss out on another critically important “C” -- connection.

We believe that connecting students and helping them develop strong peer relationships is critical to their development. Our students need the opportunity to learn and grow from each other, make mistakes, try new things, and be present with peers in a safe and healthy learning environment. Because each student is unique, they are also best served when working directly with a teacher, getting immediate support and help when needed. If the rules and regulations permit schools to operate in person, we believe it is our moral imperative, when safe and possible, to provide the option for students to return to school and learn in classrooms with teachers.

We have taken the guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Department of Education, and other agencies to develop our plan for reopening schools. In fact, we have adopted the CDPH guidelines, which we are required to follow, and put together a plan for how AUSD schools will operate going forward. It is our hope that as we begin to return to “regular” routines, we will once again be able to provide our students with a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Our plan also provides options for those parents who would prefer not to return to school at this time. We realize that we will need to remain flexible, and adjust our plans to accommodate the changing needs of our students and families. In addition, we must be ready to adapt to changes that may result from shifts in health conditions, as we will likely see school closures as outbreaks occur. To that end, we have built an adaptable and flexible plan that provides a range of learning options and provides the flexibility for parents to make changes to their child’s learning option while also meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

In partnership,
Dr. Rich Newman
Proud Superintendent
Alpine Union

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General Information

AUSD will establish protocols to maintain safety on campuses, through collaboration with local health officials, the San Diego County office of Education, and all pertinent organizations.

To enhance our work in support of students, AUSD will:

- Regularly review updated guidance from state agencies, including the California Department of Public Health and California Department of Education.
- Utilize the *AUSD FLEXIBLE PLAN FOR INSTRUCTIONAL CONTINUITY* in the event of repeated closures of classes or entire facilities when persons associated with the facility become ill with COVID-19.
- Engage families and staff with concerns that may need to be accommodated or identify additional preparations for classroom and non-classroom environments as needed.
- Communicate with our parents, staff, students and the community to ensure they remain informed of our plans and vision for supporting students and the larger Alpine community.
- Communicate with community organizations so they can safely utilize school sites and campus resources.



Promoting Healthy Hygiene Practices

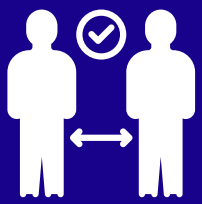
- AUSD will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
 - Students and staff will wash their hands before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after being outside; and after using the restroom.
 - Students will use hand sanitizer upon entry to the classroom.
 - Students and staff will wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels or similar product to dry hands thoroughly.
 - Staff will model and practice handwashing. For example, for primary grade levels, bathroom breaks will be used as an opportunity to reinforce healthy habits and monitor proper handwashing.
 - Students and staff will use hand sanitizer when handwashing is not practicable.
 - Each class and public areas, such as school offices, will have hand sanitizer for individuals to use upon entry.
- Routines will be developed for students and staff to regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer both inside and outside the classroom.
- Routines will be developed for students to regularly wash their desk and assist in class cleaning.
- Temperature checks will be conducted to limit the number of individuals who may possess symptoms of COVID-19 from entering classes. Temperature checks may occur upon entry to school or the classroom.
- Food service workers and staff in routine contact with the public (e.g., front office) will use gloves and facial coverings , as required, by public health guidelines.
- Face coverings, unless required by public health order, will be optional to be worn by students on school grounds. When “in transit” such as walking to the restroom students will be asked to wear a face covering.
- To enhance every opportunity for learning and instruction, Staff will be encouraged to use face shields rather than face masks or coverings.
- Schools will be stocked with adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap and hand sanitizers.



Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

- Staff and students will clean desks with soap and water daily and as necessary.
- Restrooms will be cleaned regularly, approximately every ninety minutes, by trained custodial staff.
- Students use of the restroom will be focused on reducing groupings to avoid gatherings and groups congregating.
- Frequently touched areas will be cleaned throughout the day by trained custodial staff.
- To the extent possible, schools will create a staggered schedule for shared playground areas and encourage use in larger areas such as fields in support of physical activities.
- Classrooms will be encouraged to open windows, where practical, and utilize fans to increase ventilation.





Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- To the greatest extent possible, schools will create schedules with staggered arrival and drop off-times and locations as consistently as practicable as to minimize scheduling challenges for families.
- Schools will designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entry points.

CLASSROOM SPACE

- Schools will create schedules for students that will minimize movement of students and teachers or staff as much as practicable. For example, where possible, teachers will be grouped with students for periods of the day.
- Classrooms will be set up to maximize space between seating and desks to the extent possible. Schools will design schedules to consider outside activities for smaller groups. The classroom will be expanded to use spaces on campus, where possible to extend the “four walls” of the classroom.
- Staff will develop instructions for maximizing spacing and ways to minimize movement in both indoor and outdoor spaces that are easy for students to understand and are developmentally appropriate.

NON-CLASSROOM SPACES

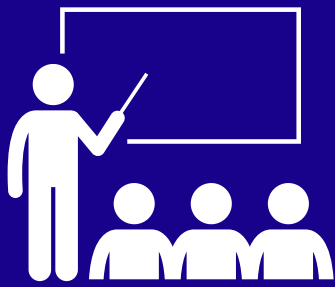
- Schools will prohibit nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving other groups to be on campus. As conditions change, greater latitude will be provided to allow for others on campus.
- Schools will use non-classroom space for instruction, including regular use of outdoor spaces, weather permitting. Schools will utilize more ways to enter and exit a campus, and staggered passing times when necessary or when students cannot stay in one room.
- Meals will be served in classrooms or outdoors based on space and availability. Food will be served individually plated, boxed or in bagged meals.
- Outside lunch areas will be available for students to have staggered lunches to the greatest extent possible. Other areas beyond the typical lunch area will be utilized, including grass, playground, classrooms and other areas. Areas will be identified to keep students at a safe distance.
- Recess or physical outside activities will be scheduled in separated areas to ensure a safe distance of play



Limiting Sharing

- To the greatest extent possible, each child's belongings will be kept separated and in individually labeled storage containers, backpacks, cubbies or areas.
- Personal belongings will be taken home each day to be cleaned.
- Students will be provided with adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials (art supplies, equipment, etc.) to the greatest extent possible or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.
- Students will not share food or drink.

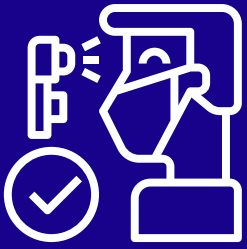




Training Staff

- All staff will be provided training or direction in the following safety actions:
 - Enhanced sanitation practices
 - Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
 - Use of face coverings
 - Screening practices
 - COVID-19 specific symptom identification





Checking for Signs and Symbols

- AUSD will actively require students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home. AUSD will develop policies that encourage sick staff and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and ensure staff, students and student's families are aware of these policies.
- AUSD will implement screening and other procedures for all staff and students entering the facility.
 - Ask all individuals about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
 - Make available and encourage use of hand-washing stations or hand sanitizer.
 - Document/track incidents of possible exposure and notify local health officials, staff and families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.
 - If a student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, AUSD staff will communicate with the parent/guardian. Staff and students will be monitored throughout the day for signs of illness.
- Staff and students will be sent home with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough or other COVID-19 symptoms.



Planning For When A Staff Member, Student, Or Visitor Becomes Sick

- Schools will work with school administrators and nurses to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 until they can be picked up from school.
- Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms will be required to wear a face covering and be required to wait in an isolation area until they can be transported home, as soon as practicable.
- Notify local health officials, staff and all families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.
- Close off areas used by any sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Ensure a safe and correct application of disinfectants using personal protective equipment and ventilation recommended for cleaning.
- Advise sick staff members and students not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation, including 3 days with no fever, symptoms have improved and 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- All students will have access to instruction through means such as distance learning when out of class due to a closure or illness



Maintaining Healthy Operations

- Monitor staff absenteeism and have a roster of trained back-up staff where available.
- Monitor the types of illnesses and symptoms among your students and staff to help isolate them promptly.
- Designate a staff liaison or liaisons to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know who they are and how to contact them. The liaison should be trained to coordinate the documentation and tracking of possible exposure, in order to notify local health officials, staff and families in a prompt and responsible manner.
- AUSD will create a communication protocol that allows staff and families to self-report symptoms and receive prompt notifications of exposures and closures, while maintaining confidentiality, as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.
- When possible, schools will support staff and students who are at higher risk for severe illness or who cannot safely distance from household contacts at higher risk, by providing options such as telework, virtual learning or independent study.



Preparing For Partial Or Total Closures

- AUSD will check State and local orders and health department notices daily about transmission in the area or closures and adjust operations accordingly.
- When a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and had exposed others at the school, implement the following steps:
 - In consultation with the local public health department, the appropriate school official may decide whether school closure is warranted, including the length of time necessary, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.
 - Give standard guidance for isolation at home at least 14 days after close contact, the classroom or office where the patient was based will typically need to close temporarily as students or staff isolate.
 - Additional close contacts at school outside of a classroom should also isolate at home.
 - Additional areas of the school visited by the COVID-19 positive individual may also need to be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection.
 - Implement communication plans for school closure to include outreach to students, parents, teachers, staff and the community.
 - Provide guidance to parents, teachers and staff reminding them of the importance of community physical distancing measures while a school is closed, including discouraging students or staff from gathering elsewhere.
 - Utilize the AUSD Flexible Plan for Instructional Continuity, a plan for continuity of education.
 - Implement plans to continue food and nutrition services for students during closures.
 - Maintain regular communications with the local public health department.



AUSD Learning Options 2020-2021



2020-2021 Models for Student Learning

Our goal is to return to face-to-face instruction in our classrooms to the greatest extent possible. The models developed are designed to equitably meet student needs and provide flexibility to parents and students while adhering to COVID-19 health guidelines.



Face-to-Face On Campus Learning

Instruction that utilizes face-to-face instruction at the school building with additional health and safety precautions.



Distance/Remote Learning

Instruction that utilizes virtual/digital learning at home.



Blended Learning Model(s)*

Instruction that utilizes face-to-face instruction at the school building with additional health and safety precautions, and virtual/digital learning at home.



Independent Study & Home School

Instruction that utilizes the parent as the primary teacher. The district provides curriculum.



AUSD Learning Options 2020-2021

Blending Learning Models Being Considered

AB-C Week

Students will attend learning on campus two weeks in a row (four days a week) followed by one week of distance learning and repeat the pattern. In this model, two-thirds of all students are on campus daily.*

Group	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
A	On Campus	Distance Learning	On Campus	On Campus	Distance Learning	On Campus
B	On Campus	On Campus	Distance Learning	On Campus	On Campus	Distance Learning
C	Distance Learning	On Campus	On Campus	Distance Learning	On Campus	On Campus

A/B Day

Students will attend learning on campus two days per week with an assigned group, A or B (for example, Monday/Tuesday for Group A and Thursday/Friday for Group B). In this model, half of all students are on campus daily.*

Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A	On Campus	On Campus	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	Distance Learning
B	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	On Campus	On Campus

A/B Week

Students will attend learning on campus four days a week with an assigned group (four days a week) followed by one week of distance learning and repeat this pattern. In this model, half of all students are on campus daily.*

Group	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
A	On Campus	Distance Learning	On Campus	Distance Learning
B	Distance Learning	On Campus	Distance Learning	On Campus

**One day will be designated as the Teacher Workday to facilitate student and /or parent conferences, conduct tutorial sessions, planning, provide intervention, participate in professional development, or organize/attend meetings (the day of the week has not been determined yet). Deep cleaning of classrooms will occur on this day.*