

Reopening Schools Task Force Update

RCSD Board Meeting
July 16, 2020



Agenda

- Updated recommendation for the start of school
- Recovery Plan for SMCOE
- Discussion and next steps



We continue to be guided by our main priorities

The Task Force will balance tradeoffs between these priorities:

- **Health and safety** (the county's Four Pillars)
- **Student learning and development** (instruction, enrichment, socioemotional well-being)
- **Community focus** (parents, school/community partners, staff)

And work in alignment with RCSD core values
(student-centered, innovation, integrity, respect, empowerment, excellence)

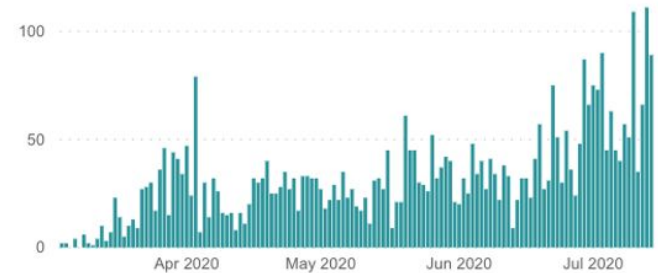


Pandemic conditions have worsened

- SMCOE's first guideline for reopening is that "the daily number of new cases in the community is flat or decreasing"
- [Cases in are increasing in our county](#)
- EPA is particularly hard hit, given the number of essential workers and the national data showing higher prevalence and worse patient outcomes for black and brown communities

SMC Trends High – 111 Cases on July 13th

New Cases by Day

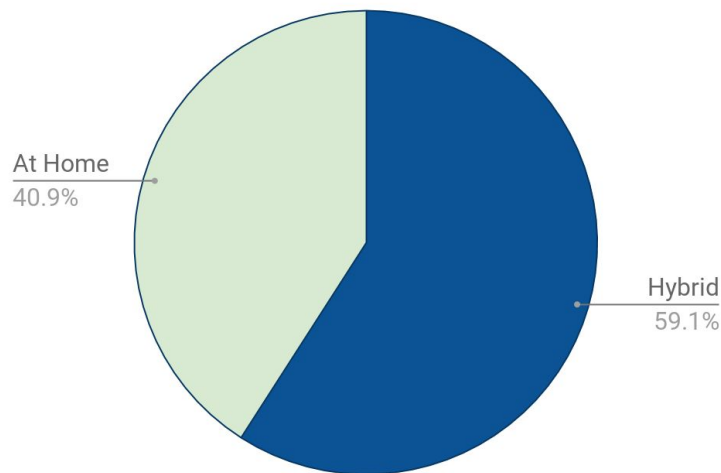


Guideline source: [SMCOE Pandemic Recovery Framework](#), page 4
Click here for [city-level data on EPA](#) (choose East Palo Alto from the city list)

Our parents and teachers are torn: while many want to come on campus, many are very concerned

- From our latest parent survey, 41% say they prefer students stay at home until there is a vaccine
- This is 10% higher than our early June survey (where 30% preferred at-home option)
- Staff have also shared concerns about safety on campus

Parent preference (from July 1-9th Survey)



Parent survey was administered July 1-9, 2020 to Ravenswood parents. 276 parents responded, representing ~340 students. 142 parents (51% of respondents) took the Spanish language survey, 134 took the English survey.



Districts across CA are announcing they will start the year with distance learning

- Every large district in the state is opening with distance only (LA, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, San Diego, Long Beach, Sacramento)
- Local districts and charters are also going distance-only (Redwood City, Milpitas, Fremont, Cupertino, Santa Clara Unified, Berkeley)

“I do think that if school had to open tomorrow, most of our districts would open with distance learning and that decision I think is a good one”

Tony Thurmond
CA State Supt. of Education
Wednesday, July 15th

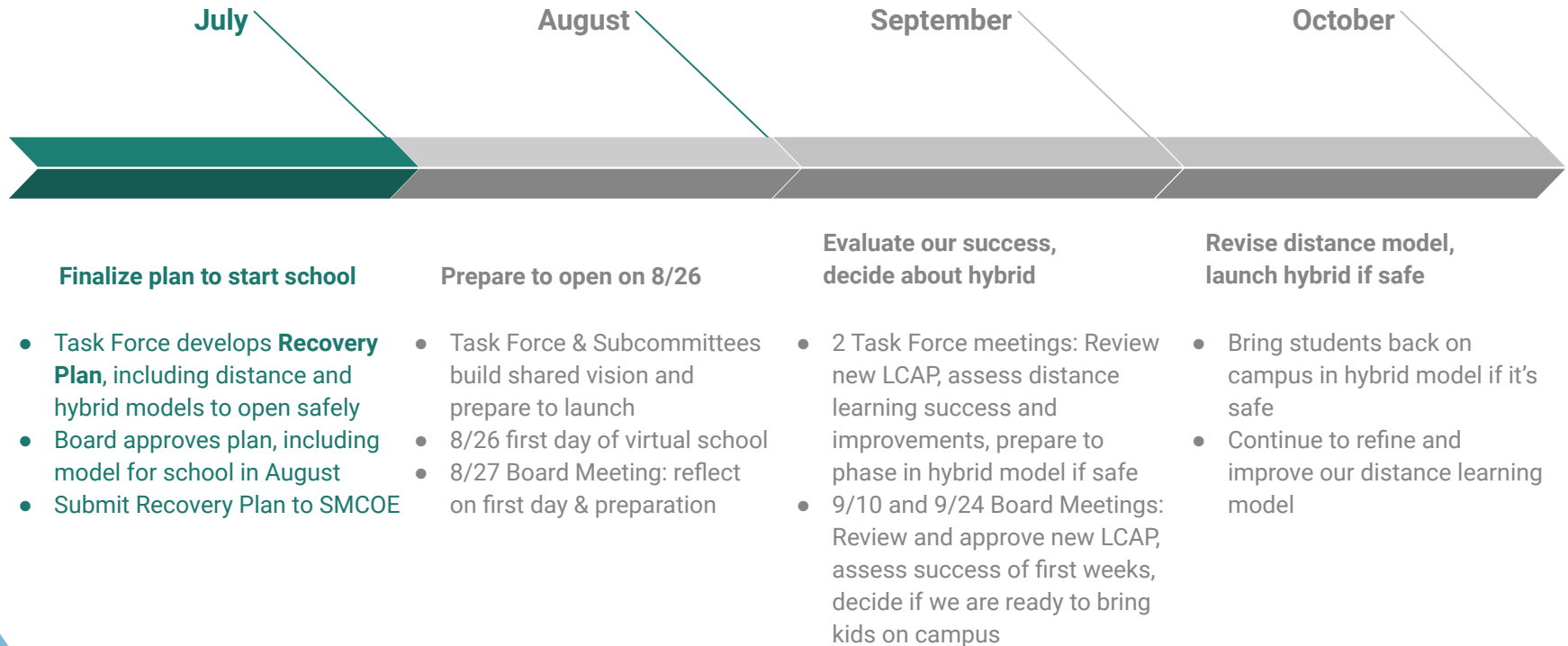


We are prepared to launch an improved distance learning plan

- We all experienced distance learning this spring, and have learned much about how to improve it
- We've been planning for distance learning and hybrid models all summer
- Running hybrid AND full distance learning models simultaneously is even more complex
- Starting with distance learning lets us focus, then phase in a hybrid model when it's safe



Recommendation: Distance learning only through September, re-evaluate hybrid phase-in for October



Focus through August: Build a shared vision for distance learning, and prepare to launch on the 26th

- Building relationships & community (student - teacher - family)
- Supporting parents as co-educators
- Special education, English learners, foster and homeless youth
- Curriculum / materials
- Teacher skills and training
- Assessment & grading
- Technology



Our Recovery Plan is the result of hundreds of hours of work by Ravenswood community members

- Our Task Force and subcommittees have met weekly since early June
- We've further engaged families and community members through two surveys, 4 parent focus groups, 4 school-focused town halls, and public comments at board meetings
- This document reflects our best current thinking... and we'll keep working throughout the school year to refine it



Add town hall screenshot to reflect different people

Health & safety: How we will keep our community safe when they are on campus

- Guidance from San Mateo County Office of Education (the Four Pillars)
- Safe and Clean Learning Environment
- Transportation
- Food and Meals
- District / School Site Operations
- Response to New Cases or Exposure



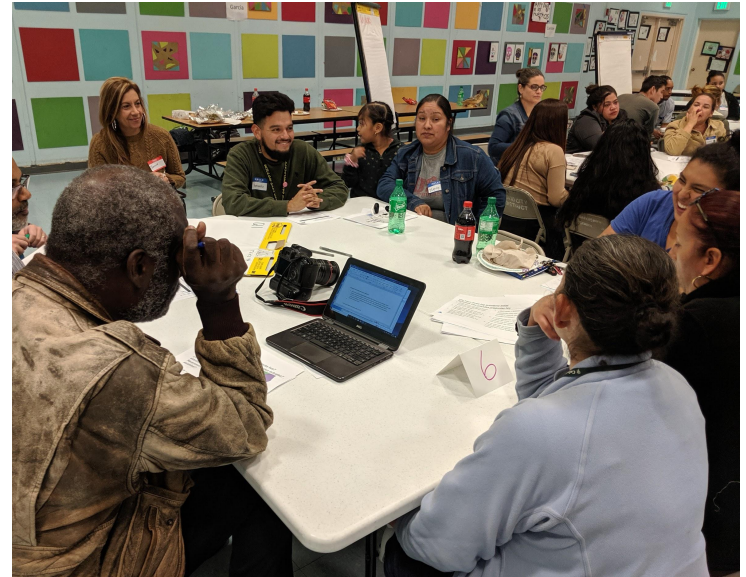
How we'll support **student learning & development**

- Wellness and social-emotional learning supports for students, families and staff
- Our improved distance learning model
- Hybrid model (when it is safe)
 - TK-K on campus 4 days/week
 - 1-8th graders on campus 2 days/week, on an A/B schedule (Tue/Thur or Wed/Fri)
- Support for students with special needs, English learners, homeless & foster youth
- Plan to fill learning gaps and other changes to implement either learning model



Community Focus: We will continue to engage our broader community

- **Task Force will continue to meet** throughout the 2020-21 school year
- We will **educate and support our community to thrive** in our new setting (trainings, info sessions, letters, calls, community meetings, social media, etc.)
- We will **regularly engage our families, students, staff and partners in two-way dialogue**, responding to and learning with our whole community



Discussion and next steps

- Questions or feedback about the overall Recovery Plan, including our recommendation to start the year with distance learning?
- We will report back to the Task Force and revise the plan to address any questions / suggestions raised tonight
- We'll share our plan with SMCOE by July 24th

