

Update on BUSD's School Reopening Plan

February 17, 2021

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Berkeley
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Berkeley Unified School District

This Evening's Meeting

1. Staff Vaccination and Reopening Timeline
2. Elementary Hybrid Learning Survey
3. Reopening Preparations
4. The Science of School-Based Transmission



Staff Vaccinations and Reopening Timeline

Through a commitment from the City of Berkeley, vaccinations for all 1500 BUSD employees will begin next week.

The week of February 22, vaccines for PK-2 educators

The week of March 1, vaccines for Grades 3-5

The week of March 8, vaccines for middle and high school

Other employee groups will include district office managers, BAS staff, key volunteer staff, and construction managers.

A full listing of each vaccination group will be distributed to BUSD staff.

If this vaccination timeline takes place, the following
Hybrid Reopening Timeline will be instituted:

Monday, March 29: Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and K-2

April 5-9: Spring Recess

Monday, April 12: Grades 3-5; Grades 6-8; U9 program at
Berkeley High School; Berkeley Technical Academy, Berkeley
Independent Studies

Monday, April 19: Grades 10-12

Local Transmission Rates

Even if no vaccines are available, or the vaccination schedule is incomplete, schools at all levels will reopen in a hybrid model five days after County and City transmission rates are at the Orange level, using the same three-week staggered schedule described in [the section on vaccines].

Physical Distancing: The Reason for a Hybrid Model

“Maximize space between seating and desks. Distance teacher and other staff desks at least 6 feet away from student and other staff desks. Distance student chairs at least 6 feet away from one another, except where 6 feet of distance is not possible after a good-faith effort has been made.”
(p.21)

**COVID-19 and
Reopening In-Person
Instruction Framework
& Public Health
Guidance for K-12
Schools in California,
2020-2021 School Year**

January 14, 2021



Physical Distancing By Level

Level	Typical Classroom Size	Average Class Size	Classroom Capacity with 6 ft distance
Elementary	980 square feet	23 K-4, 26 5th	12
Middle	980 square feet	28	12
High School	750 - 980 square feet	28	10-12

ADDITIONAL REOPENING CONSIDERATIONS

Availability of Distance Learning for Students Who Request It. Schools should continue to offer distance learning for students who request it.

Thoughtful, Phased Implementation. K-12 school sites should employ a phased-in model as a part of their reopening plan. Phased reopening plans for in-person instruction may include, but are not limited to:

- Shifting from a full distance learning model to hybrid.
- Gradually allowing for specified grades and/or a percentage of each grade to resume in-person learning, beginning with the youngest and most disproportionately impacted students.
- Allowing for a gradual number of students, at a specified capacity, per grade or school site.

Elementary Hybrid Models

In order to finalize details of a hybrid learning model, on February 12 we asked elementary families to confirm their intent to participate in in-person learning.

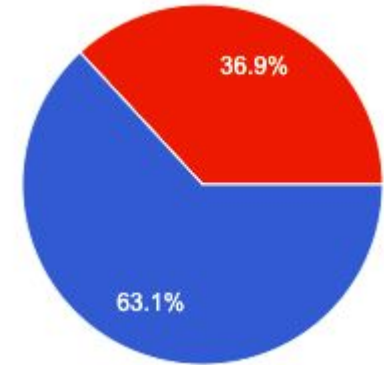
We also shared two possible hybrid models

Model 1:

Distance Learning in the Morning; In-Person Learning in the Afternoon

**Subject to bargaining*

9:00 - 11:30	Distance learning at home Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri <i>Wednesday schedule the same as in Distance Learning</i>
1:00 - 3:00	On campus Monday/Tuesday <u>or</u> Thursday/Friday <i>For off-campus days, asynchronous (independent) work</i>
3:00 - 5:30	Optional after-school / other activities on campus (two days)



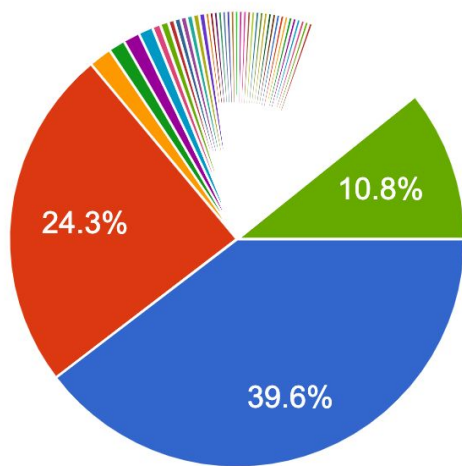
Distance Learning would maintain the current Distance Learning schedule

- Yes, I would send my child to school for this hybrid learning program
- No, we would remain in Distance Learning

Model 1: Distance Learning in the Morning; In-Person Learning in the Afternoon

If you answered no, please tell us why.

679 responses



- This schedule cannot work for my family
- My family will choose Distance Learning
- N/a
- N/A
- n/a
- I answered yes
- NA
- I chose yes

Model 2:

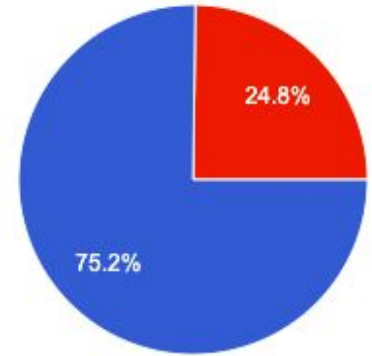
Two Full Days of In-Person Learning; Three Full Days of Distance Learning

**Subject to bargaining*

8:30 - 9:00	Zoom class with teacher for students not coming to campus
9:15 - 2:00	In person on campus either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday <i>For off-campus days, asynchronous work, Zoom electives</i> <i>Wednesday schedule the same as in Distance Learning</i>
2:00 - 5:30	Optional afterschool / activities on campus (two days)

Many students may be assigned a new teacher for the rest of the school year, whether they choose hybrid or distance learning, as this model requires shuffling teacher assignments.

Families who choose to remain in Distance Learning will likely receive an increased amount of online instruction.



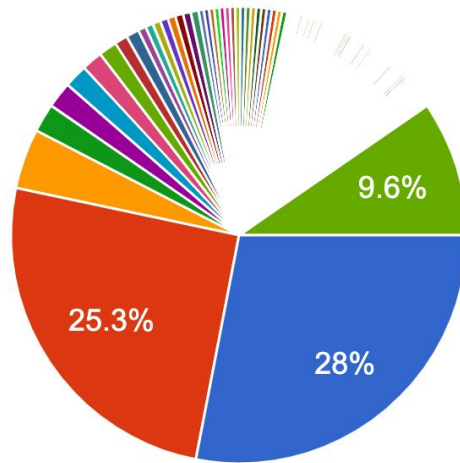
- Yes, I would send my child to school for this hybrid learning program
- No, we would remain in Distance Learning

Model 2:

Two Full Days of In-Person Learning; Three Full Days of Distance Learning

If you answered no, please tell us why.

542 responses



- I don't want my student assigned to a...
- My family will choose Distance Learning
- This schedule cannot work for my family
- N/a
- I answered yes
- n/a
- N/A
- NA

Reopening Preparations

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Approx. Date	Sample of Final Preparations
Feb	Final Administrative Trainings
March	Final Family Enrollment Survey
	*Reorganize Class Lists at the Elementary Level
March	Family Safety Materials Distributed (Campus Safety Plan, Family Agreement, student videos)
March	Teacher Trainings (online and in-person)
March	Site Inspections and Feedback (PPE, signage, screening procedures, classroom setup)
March 29	PK-2 Reopening
April 12	Grades 3-5, Middle School, and High School Reopening
April 19	Grades 10-12

The Science of School-Based Transmission

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The Science

Read about the science and evidence that has informed our approach for safe and successful in-person instruction during this COVID-19 pandemic.

View →

Children Get COVID-19 Less Frequently and Have Less Severe Disease

Children with COVID-19 Most Often Get It from a Household Contact

Transmission Among or from Students Is Uncommon

Low Risk of Transmission in Elementary Schools

Core strategies include: masks; physical distancing; small, stable groups; hand hygiene; ventilation; screening for symptoms or close contact; and asymptomatic testing.

Testing Students and Staff with Symptoms Can Prevent Outbreaks

Marin County Schools

Public, Private, Independent and Parochial Schools
(Updated In-Person Learning Estimates)

September 8, 2020 - February 5, 2021

Number of In-Person School Days	96
Number of "Student Days"	991,408
Average Number of Students Per Day (past 5 days)	17,639
% of Students in Site Based Classroom Instruction	55%
% of Staff Supporting Site Based Instruction In-Person	72%
Cumulative COVID+ Students	164
Cumulative COVID+ Staff	42
Suspected In-School Transmission	10
Student to Student	5
Adult to Adult	3
Adult to Student	2
Student to Adult	0
Marin Schools Open (101 of 116)	87%
42 of 43 Elementary Schools	98%
27 of 28 K-8 Schools	96%
8 of 9 Middle Schools	89%
5 of 17 High Schools	29%
18 of 18 Special Education/Other	100%

#MarinSchoolsTogether

COVID Dashboard and Learning Estimates are updated on Fridays at Noon

With the Right Precautions,
We Can Minimize
Transmissions in
Schools—Especially in
Elementary Grades

We urge our families to recognize:

- All students will be expected to wear masks.
- Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine procedures will be strictly enforced, and this could lead to further disruption for individual students, classes, or even entire schools.
- All families are expected to confirm that their children are free of COVID symptoms every day.
- Students should remain at home if they are sick or have COVID symptoms.
- All visitors to school campuses and classrooms are prohibited, except for a few limited volunteer roles in the office.
- Substitute staffing will continue be highly limited.

The pandemic is not over, and we hope that Hybrid Learning is a step on the path to a full reopening in the Fall of 2021.

Patience, kindness, and cooperation will be important for all of us.

A person wearing a red shirt is shown from the chest up, with their hands held together in front of them to form a heart shape. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

Thank You!

Our Students, Parents, and Guardians
All Our BUSD Staff
Labor Partners
City of Berkeley