

## Pleasanton Unified School District



March 25, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Pleasanton community, we join other school district leaders in writing to you regarding school reopening. Like you, we share a strong belief that students need to return to in-person learning, and we appreciate your support to help make this happen with safety as a priority. We acknowledge and appreciate the CDPH's swift adoption of the CDC's 3 foot distancing guideline. However, it is imperative that the State of California moves to clarify the stable grouping requirements in such a way that facilitates efforts to bring all students back to campus full-time for in-person instruction in August.

Our teachers, administrators, staff, and community members have worked collaboratively and thoughtfully since last spring, as we prepared to safely resume in-person learning this school year. Though we currently have students in all grades back on our campuses in partial day (elementary) or split week (secondary) hybrid models, our goal for next fall is to facilitate a full-time return of all students, in all grades for in-person learning. To do this successfully, we will need clear and consistent communication and guidelines from the State.

As you would expect, our primary consideration for returning fully to in-person learning is the safety of our students and staff. Our efforts have been complicated by often conflicting information from the experts at the County, State, and National levels. For example, the recommendations for group sizes and stable cohorts continue to be out of synch. We understand that these guidelines are impacted by dynamic factors, most notably the Covid rates in individual communities. Nevertheless, it is imperative that we have clarity now if we are to plan effectively for the upcoming school year.

Guidance relating to stable cohorts and group size drive decisions relating to classroom logistics and staffing, and determines the number of students and staff we can safely bring into classrooms. Most directly, the restriction of cohorts and/or the mixing of groups during the instructional day severely limits a secondary school's ability to implement a full schedule of classes.

***If restrictions relating to cohorting or group sizes are necessary when community infection rates are high, but can be adjusted when community infection rates are below a specific***

***threshold, guidance that reflects this distinction would be very beneficial*** in allowing us to bring all of our secondary students back to campus in-person for five full days of instruction, much in the same way that adjustment to the physical distancing requirements will enable us to do with our elementary students.

We urge you to provide clarity to our school district, and districts throughout the state, by providing a single set of defined metrics that can be relied upon to safely plan to bring all of our students in preschool through high school back to their classrooms for full-time, in-person instruction, five days per week.

Respectfully,

Governance Team Members of the Pleasanton Unified School District

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Joan Laursen  
President, Board of Trustees

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Mark Miller  
Vice President, Board of Trustees

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Mary Jo Carreon  
Trustee

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Steve Maher  
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Kelly Mokashi  
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David Haglund, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, M.D., Ph.D., CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer  
Senator Steve Glazer  
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan