



Ravenswood City
School District

Board of Trustees Meeting Items 8.A and 8.B

March 25, 2021

***Consideration to Approve
Reopening School
District-wide for All Students***

Proposal: Offer every district student the option to return to campus (district-wide reopening)

- Offer every student the option to return to campus
- Maintain safety precautions/practices in our COVID Safety Plan
- Use models aligned with Scenarios 3 and 4 (from Tuesday study session)
- Phased start dates: April 12 - May 5
- Allow families to choose to stay in distance learning for rest of school year



***Consideration to Approve
Proposals to Bring Additional
Classes Back to Campus***

Update: Costaño is on pace to bring 7 classes back on April 12 (up from 5 originally)

- All is going well with the three Costaño classes already back on campus (unique learners, TK, K, 3rd)
- Lots of planning and preparation!
- We are ready to bring classes back even faster than the original plan (7 ready to start on April 12)



More teachers have developed plans to bring their students back to campus



- Since the last board meeting, CCRMS, LRRM and Belle Haven teachers proposed new plans to return to campus
- SIWG gave feedback Tuesday afternoon
- These proposals generally match the reopening models described at the study session Tuesday

Belle Haven: Five classes ready to come back April 12 using a hybrid flex model

- Grades 1-4 (five classes)
- Use the hybrid flex model
- Most students on campus 4 days/week (2 days / week if too many kids)
- 1st/3rd grade = half day
- 2nd/4th grade = full day
- Start: Monday April 12



LRRM: Grades 1,2,3,5 returning, mostly in half-day model either 2 or 4 days/week



- Grades 1,2,3 & 5 (grade 4 soon)
- Most kids on campus ~half day for 2 or 4 days/week, or 4 days every other week
 - All students learn together online for half the day (same minimum instructional minutes)
 - 1.5-2 hours in-person (mostly outside in tents) while “zoomies” do asynch work
 - 1st grade plans all day in-person, 2 days/wk
- Focus on relationships & community, social emotional learning & wellness, enduring learning habits & mindsets
- Start: Tuesday April 13

CCRMS: Learning hub plus model for 6th grade students with mild/moderate special needs

- 6th grade students with mild/moderate special needs (24 students, of whom 21 will come on-campus, 3 stay distance)
- Students on campus Tues-Friday 9am-3pm
 - 2 special ed teachers teach using hy-flex model in the morning
 - BGCP take these students into new learning hubs from 11:45-3pm with support from paras
- Start: Tuesday, April 20



Item 8.A: Approve Proposals to Bring Additional Classes Back to Campus

- Belle Haven: five classes in grades 1-4 on Monday, April 12
- LRRM: Grades 1,2,3 and 5 on Tuesday, April 13
- CCRMS: 6th grade students with mild/mod special needs on Tuesday, April 20



Appendix

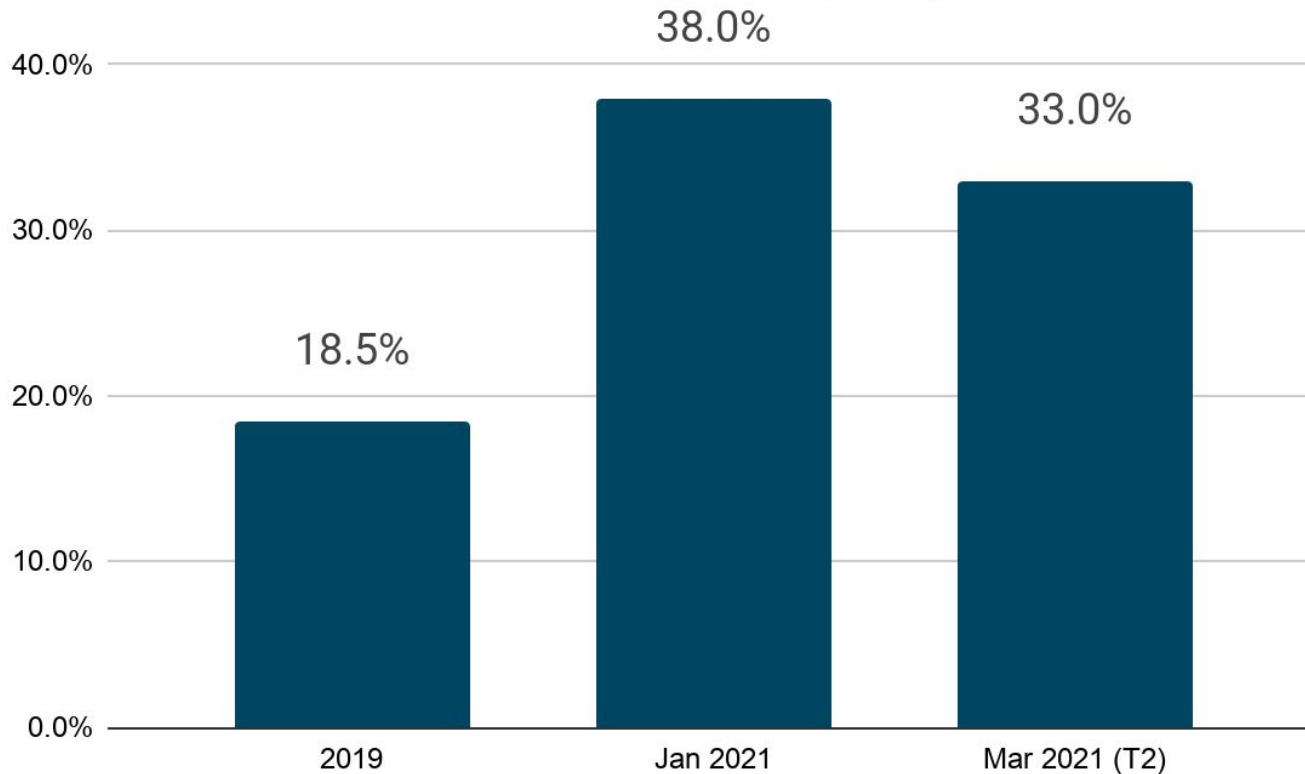
Agenda (Tuesday 3/23/21 Study Session)

- Distance Learning Update
- COVID Status Updates
- Updated Family Survey Results
- Reopening Scenarios
- Stimulus Funding Update
- Board Discussion & Direction



We have seen similar challenges with attendance and engagement in distance learning

Chronic Absenteeism Over Time (K-8th grade)



Sources: 2019 Data from CA Dashboard Chronic Absenteeism
Jan 2021 and Mar 2021 (Trimester 2) from internal records, reflecting students who were absent more than 10% of expected days



We have been monitoring student progress, but administering assessments has also been challenging

K-5th Grade MOY Literacy

- 16% of Belle Haven students used Lexia regularly (76 of 481) and 355 used Lexia once
- 25% of CO students used Lexia 2x/week and 421 used Lexia once

6th-8th Grade MOY Literacy:

- 6th grade- 74% tested (132/178)
- 7th grade- 46% tested (87/190)
- 8th grade- 93% tested (185/198)

Challenges

- Students not reporting online to take their scheduled test
- Students not completing tests
- Aiming to use limited instructional time for instruction, not only administering assessments



Although there are bright spots, our students are not making as much progress as we want to see

Belle Haven - Literacy

Students by Grade Level of Material (GLM)



Costano School - Literacy

Students by Grade Level of Material (GLM)



6th-8th Grade Literacy:

- 6th grade- 5.5 grade level (vs 6.5)
 - 1.0 GL growth
- 7th grade- 6.3 grade level (vs 7.5)
 - 0.7 GL growth
- 8th grade- 7.45 grade level (vs 8.5)
 - 1.3 GL growth

6th-8th Grade Math:

- 8th grade High School Transition Assessment
 - 28 students will enroll in Geometry
 - others will enroll in Algebra B/C and meet A-G requirements for college



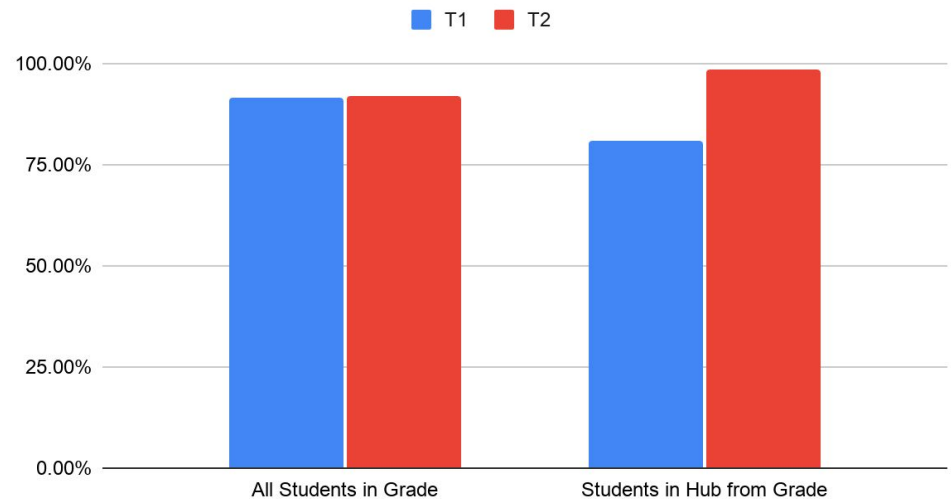


The best solution is to get kids back on campus for in-person instruction with teachers

-We continue to work to improve engagement and learning in the distance format

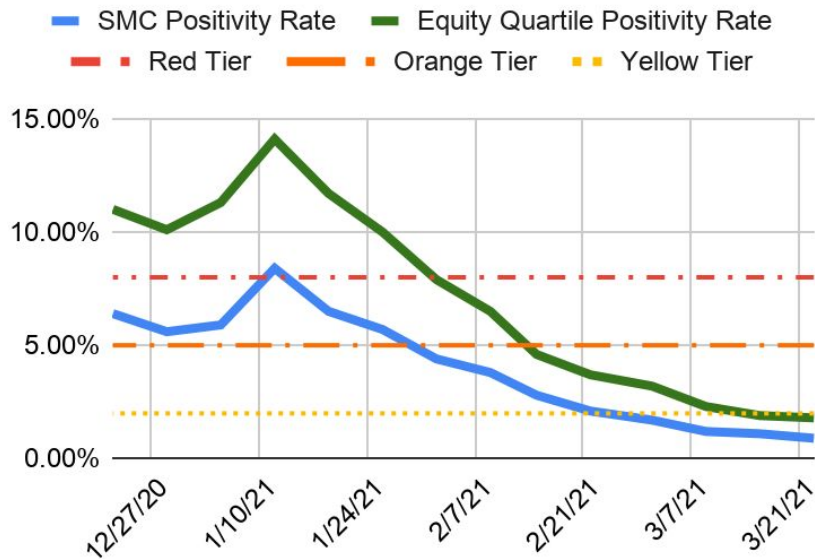
-But the best solution is getting kids back on campus for in-person instruction

Comparing Attendance in a Grade level

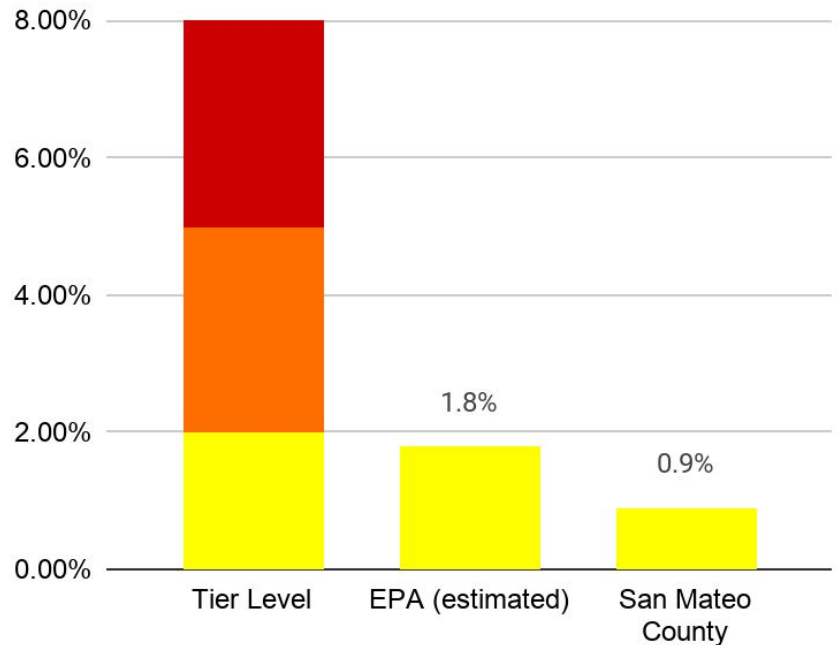


County is in Orange Tier; Positivity rates are very low in EPA and the county

Positivity Rate Over Time: County vs. EPA



Current Positivity Rate



Source for San Mateo County new cases, positivity rate, and health equity quartile test positivity: [CA Blueprint for a Safer Economy 3/16/2021](#)

EPA COVID positivity rate estimate is based on SMC Health Equity Quartile

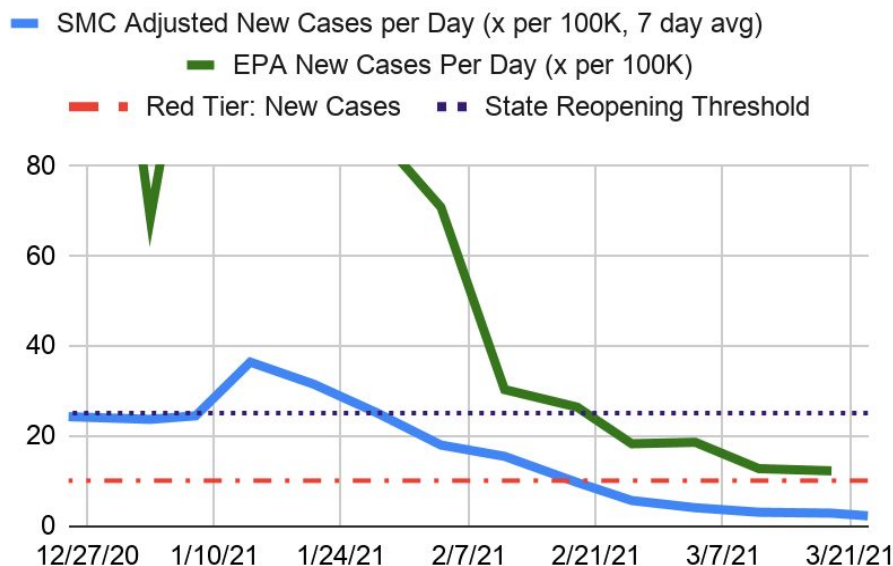
Source for EPA new cases: Calculated from [San Mateo County Cases by City](#) - 3/19/21



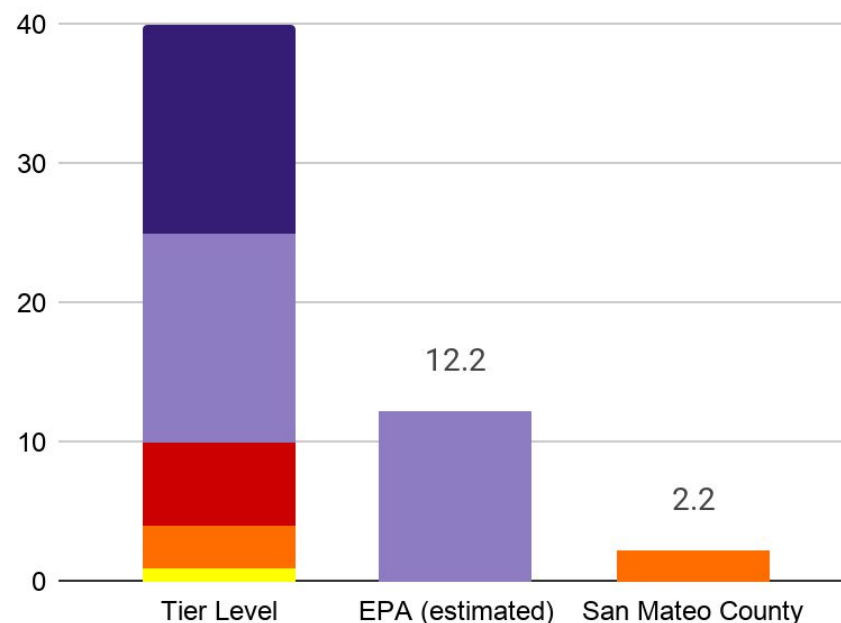


The rate of new cases has continued to fall in EPA and the county

New Cases per 100K Over Time: County vs. EPA



Current New Cases (Per 100,000)



Source for San Mateo County new cases, positivity rate, and health equity quartile test positivity: [CA Blueprint for a Safer Economy 3/16/2021](#)

EPA COVID positivity rate estimate is based on SMC Health Equity Quartile

Source for EPA new cases: Calculated from [San Mateo County Cases by City](#) - 3/19/21



All Ravenswood staff have been vaccinated or invited to get vaccinated

- **We've helped over 218 staff get vaccinated**
 - 188 Ravenswood employees
 - 30 staff at partner organizations who work with our students (e.g., BGCP, EPATT, 49ers, Playworks)
- **63% of staff have reported getting at least their first shot**
 - 84 out of 126 certificated RTA staff (67%)
 - 48 out of 135 classified CSEA staff (36%)
 - We are still waiting to hear from some staff
- **Most staff are getting their second shot this week**



Reopening status in San Mateo County

- 15 out of 16 San Mateo County elementary districts are reopened or plan to do so district-wide (note: SSFUSD does not yet have date for middle or high school)
- We now have to report to the state every two weeks why we are not reopened district-wide, and what are the barriers to reopening (new requirements under AB 86)
- We think conditions are right to consider district-wide reopening

The county has approved our COVID Safety Plan, and our plan to reopen Costaño and LRRM



- San Mateo County Offices of Education and Public Health both reviewed and approved our COVID safety checklist and updated Recovery and Reopening Plan
- Costaño and LRRM are officially “re-opened” according to the county and state guidelines, and Costaño is approved to phase in additional classrooms starting April 12th (as planned)

Our COVID Safety & Reopening Plans are on the web:

<https://sites.google.com/ravenswoodschools.net/reopeningplanning/safety-recovery-plans>

The state has relaxed distance requirements to 3 feet between students, based on the latest science

- CDPH announced Saturday that they were reducing the required distance between students to 3 feet (with masks)
- This followed the [CDC's new guidance on Friday](#), which matches what the WHO has recommended for months
- Research on half a million students in Massachusetts last fall showed no difference in cases between schools keeping 3' distance vs. 6' distance for students, as long as masks were mandatory
- Staff will continue to stay 6' distance, as well as students without masks (e.g., while eating)

 **This means we can safely fit full classes in most rooms**

Agenda

- Distance Learning Update
- COVID Status Updates
- Updated Family Survey Results
- Reopening Scenarios
- Stimulus Funding Update
- Board Discussion & Direction

Families of ~680 students have answered our survey about their interest in returning to campus

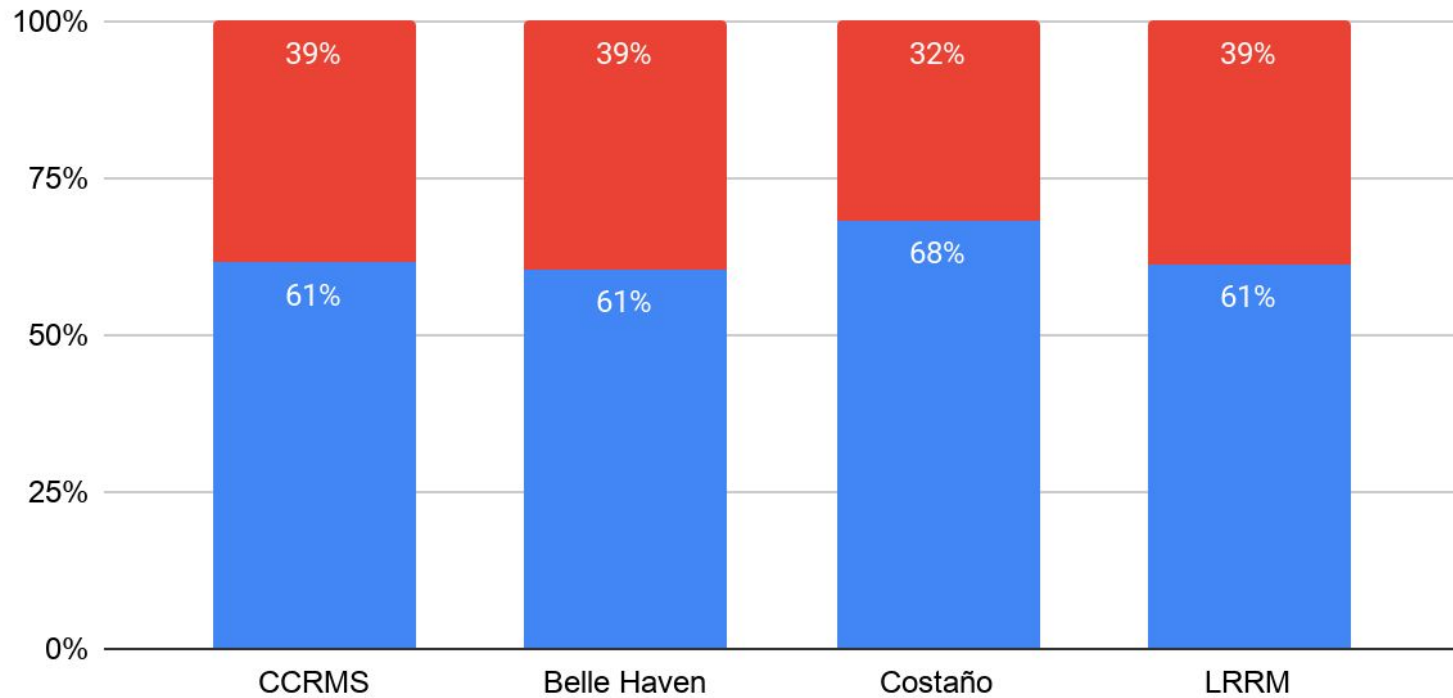
- Survey went out Thursday March 4th
- Since then, we've made phone calls to families at all schools
- Response rate ranged from 27% - 59%, depending on the school



Majority of families want to return to campus, across all schools

Would you send your child back to school 5 days/week in April?

■ No or Probably Not ■ Yes or Probably Yes



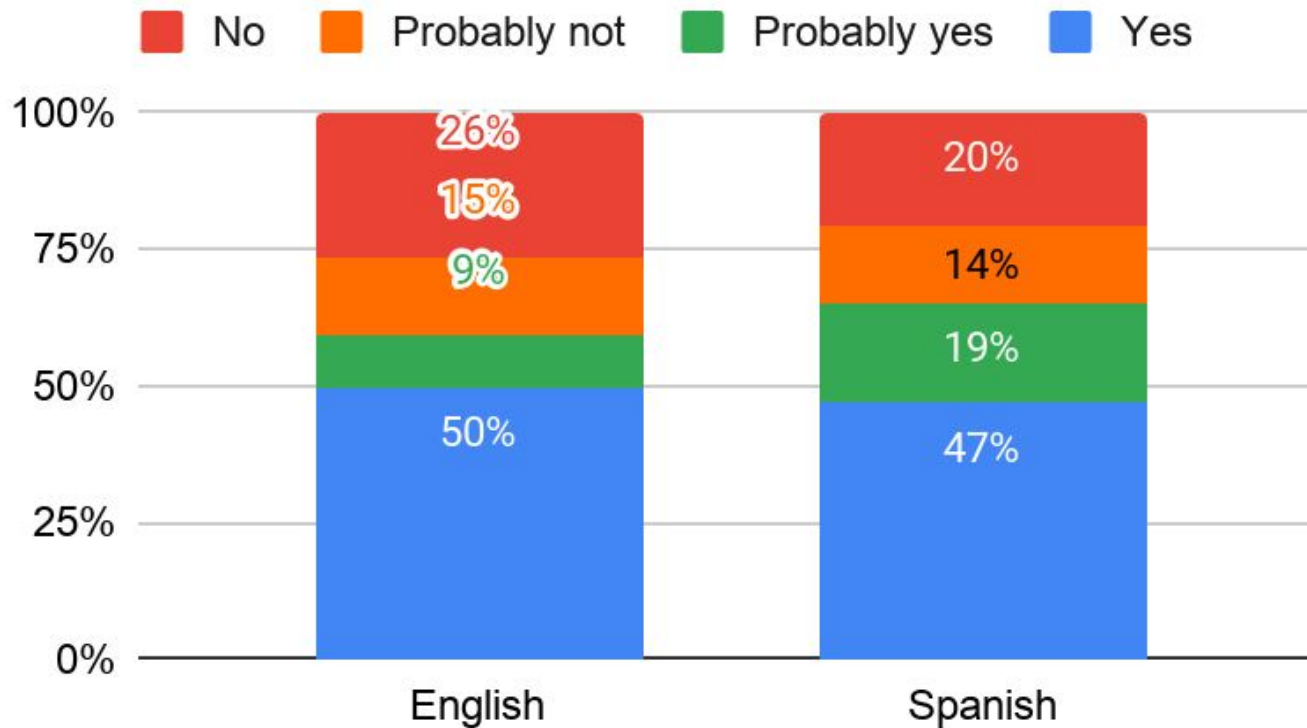
# Student Responses:	179	246	129	124
Response Rate:	32%	51%	27%	59%

Source: [Family Survey](#) sent 3/4/21. 678 Responses as of Tuesday, March 23, 5:30pm



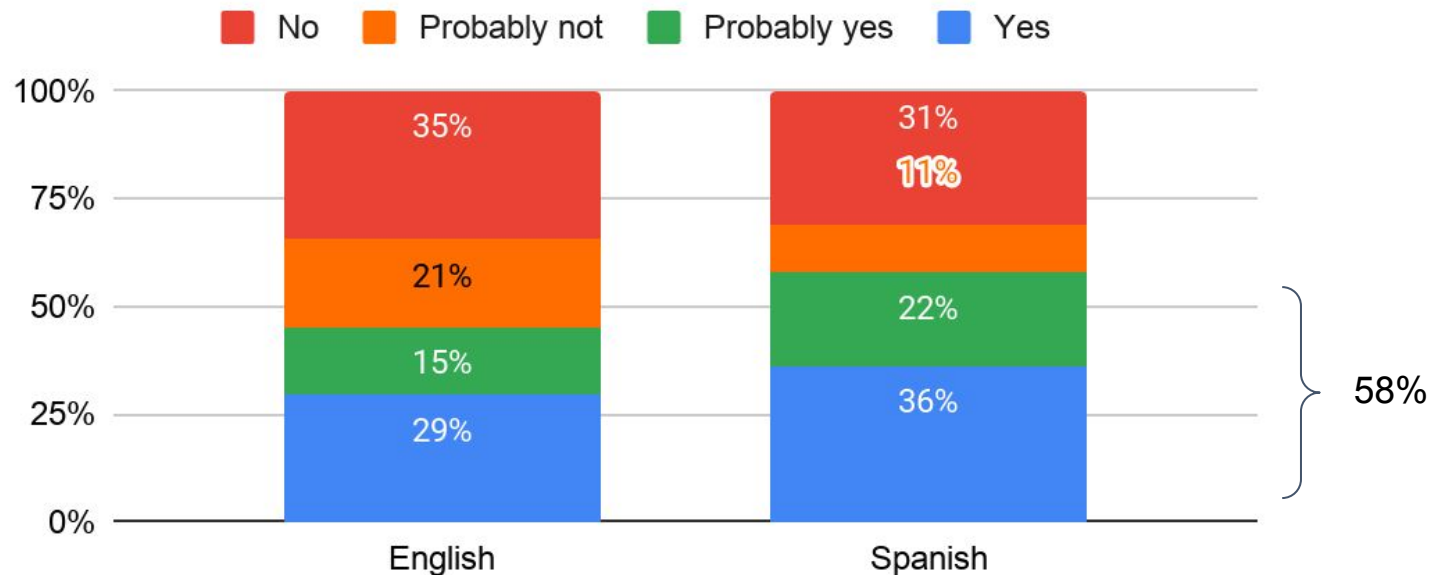
Spanish-speaking families were even more interested in returning (66% vs. 59%)

Return 5 days per week?



Parents were split on changing teachers; Majority of Spanish-speaking respondents would change teachers in order to return

Would you return if it meant changing teachers?



Agenda

- Distance Learning Update
- Updated Family Survey Results
- COVID Status Updates
- Reopening Scenarios
- Stimulus Funding Update
- Board Discussion & Direction

As we consider larger scale reopening scenarios, safety is non-negotiable

All schools will continue to follow our COVID Safety Checklist

- **Stable groups:** students and their homeroom teacher won't interact with other students
- **Face masks** required for all
- **Physical distancing** between students / staff
- **Health screenings** for staff & students each morning
- **Cleaning / Hygiene:** regular cleaning and disinfection
- **Testing:** 1-2 times/week for staff and students
- **Contact tracing & communication** if cases occur

SM County public health office has approved our safety plan



Our COVID Safety & Reopening Plans are on the web:

<https://sites.google.com/ravenswoodschools.net/reopeningplanning/safety-recovery-plans>

Schools are updating plans to ensure safety with more students on campus

For example:

- Entrance/egress plans & signage
- Maps designating before-school screening & waiting areas, recess and lunch rotation areas
- School entry, breakfast, recess, lunch and dismissal procedures
- Bathroom assignments and procedures to avoid crowding
- Coverage schedules for when teachers are out of the room



We are training more staff to do rapid COVID testing as more students come on campus



- State pilot program will extend at least through the end of the school year
- We are training more staff to support testing (8 CNE staff volunteered & were trained on Friday)
- We will scale up testing to cover all students as they come back

We are balancing several priorities when considering reopening plans

Student Centered: How can we bring the most students back for live in-person instruction?

- **On campus:** How many students can come on campus?
- **In-person instruction:** How much in-person instruction will they get?

Other factors

- **Relationships:** Can we maintain current homeroom assignments?
- **Instructional quality:** Can teachers implement the model effectively? Will distance learners continue to be engaged?
- **Teacher willingness:** Do we need to require all staff to return in person?
- **Space:** Do we have enough space to fit all interested students?
- **Cost:** What are the extra costs (staffing, construction delays)?



Status of staff on campus / working in-person

- **CSEA already on campus:** CSEA staff have been working on campus and with students and families all year
- **Administrative staff already in-person:** Supt, Directors, Principals have been working in-person all year
- **Some RTA staff voluntarily in-person:**
 - RTA members may work/teach on-campus and in person if they volunteer
 - Our RTA MOU allows the district to require staff to return in-person when we re-open all schools
- **Reasonable Accommodations:** We have and will continue to make reasonable accommodations for staff with medical reasons not to be able to work in-person



Scenarios

Models (Definitions)

- **Hybrid Flex (HyFlex):** Teaching students in person and on zoom at the same time (proposed / in use by teachers at Costano)
- **Half Day In-Person:** Teacher teaches remote learners in morning, teaches students in-person in afternoon, or vice versa (when not with teacher, students do asynchronous distance learning) (approved in our MOU with RTA)
- **Learning Hubs Plus:** Students doing mostly distance learning supervised on site by certificated substitute, teachers push in for some in-person teaching / subs provide instructional support
- **In-Person & Distance-only Homerooms:** Reshuffle homerooms so each class either has only in-person students, or only distance students (original proposal in our Recovery Plan)



Scenario 1: Continue our current approach and bring more students back on a class-by-class basis (no district-wide reopening)

- Continue with our plan to reopen Costano (county-approved)
- Open additional classes based on volunteer teachers
 - *LRRM Grades 1, 2, 3 & 5*
 - *Belle Haven: 5 classes*
 - *CCRMS: multiple classes*
- Continue to leverage learning hub partners so some students have the chance to do distance learning on campus, in a safe, supportive learning environment



Scenario 2: Rely on volunteer teachers + substitutes for district-wide reopening

- Scenario 1, plus hire substitute teachers to create “learning hub plus” model for remaining classrooms
- Learning hubs plus would require hiring lots of substitute teachers to cover classrooms whose teachers don’t respond to our call to action
- All students could come on campus, but many students won’t have access to in-person instruction from their teacher



Scenario 3: Teachers required to return, no change to homerooms



- **Scenario 1, plus half day learning model** (distance synchronous in the morning and in-person learning in the afternoon, or vice versa), or give teachers the choice of **hybrid flex model** (teach in-person and at-home learners simultaneously)
- Reasonable accommodations will be made for staff who provide a medical note
- If needed, subs would be hired

Scenario 4: Teachers required to return, option to change homerooms

- *If schools don't change homerooms*, same as Scenario 3
- *If schools change homerooms* (at a grade level or school-wide) could **offer students a choice of a distance-only or in-person-only class**
- In-person learning could be full day, **5 days / week or 2-3 days / week** (based on # of students returning and teachers available, to balance class sizes)
- Reasonable accommodations will be made for staff who provide a medical note
- If needed, subs would be hired



Allow flexibility to respond to different site circumstances

- We propose giving schools flexibility to determine their best model
- We will ask schools to consider the same priorities when making those decisions
- Superintendent would work with principals to confirm their specific plan by grade level, based on unique school circumstances

Depending on board direction, we would plan a phased reopening

- Phase in classrooms and/or grades between April 12 - May 5
 - Everyone would get at least 6 weeks on-campus instruction
 - Allows end-of-year assessments to happen on-campus
- Communicate with families and staff, so they know options and feel safe
- Coordinate with learning hubs as students transition
- Confirm who we can transport based on demand and (limited) capacity
- Plan for any new technology needed (e.g., 5 OWL camera/speakers)
- Other materials (signs, stickers, tents, tables)



Agenda

- Distance Learning Update
- Updated Family Survey Results
- COVID Status Updates
- Reopening Scenarios
- Stimulus Funding Update
- Board Discussion & Direction

We have received significant stimulus funding from a variety of sources

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Spending Deadline</u>
LLMF (CARES Act)	\$2.9m	13%	<i>Spent</i>
ESSER/GEER (CARES Act)	\$1m	4%	9/30/2021
ESSER/GEER II (December COVID Relief Bill)	\$3.4m	15%	9/30/2022
March Stimulus (American Rescue Plan)	\$7.5m	33%	9/30/2023
In-Person Instruction Grants (AB86)	\$0.7km	3%	8/31/2022
Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant (AB86)	\$2.4m	10%	8/31/2022
REF	\$3-10m	23%	N/A

- We have received significant stimulus funding and are working on spending it responsibly
- The in-person learning grants are conditional to reopening nearly all grades by May 15th - this is a max of 3% of our total stimulus funding so while it would be nice to have, this is not a primary driver of decisions

Agenda

- Distance Learning Update
- Updated Family Survey Results
- COVID Status Updates
- Reopening Scenarios
- Stimulus Funding Update
- Board Discussion & Direction

We would like board direction on:

- Which reopening scenario you would like us to pursue?
- Would you like staff to present something for vote on Thursday?

Appendix

Safety FAQ

- What is appropriate distancing? *County will probably shift to 3' between students to align with CDPH and CDC guidelines*
- How many students can be in a room? *Depends on size of room and configuration of desks/tables. At 3' student distancing, we anticipate being able to safely hold 20-30 students per room in most district rooms*
- How many students can an adult work with? *The state does not set a hard limit on total # of students or # of stable groups of students. The more stable groups that each teacher works with, the greater the risk of spread across stable groups or the need to quarantine more students if the teacher was positive*
- Can intervention teachers work with students? Can special ed services be provided? *Yes: intervention and special education services can work with students in multiple stable groups. Teachers would pull students out of the class, and try to avoid mixing students from different stable groups whenever possible*
- Will specialist teachers work with every student? *Via zoom (except when can be done safely outside)*



In- Classroom Technology Facts

1 Chromebook Cart in every 2nd-8th grade Classroom ready to go

- *One Chromebook per student in charging cart, plus spares*
- *Classroom Chromebooks are a year old or newer*
- *Students will get/retain at-home Chromebook until at least end-of-year*

TK-1st Grade Students

- *Retain district iPads at home until at least end-of-year*
- *Bring iPad to classroom for in-class assignments*



Appendix: Sample comments from the family survey

Most parents are excited about their students returning ...

- *"For me, I want my child in school"*
- *"I'm looking forward to my child attending in person learning 5 days a week :)"*
- *"[...] I truly believe schools have to be open and children need to be learning in person with their assigned teachers"*

... while others expressed a desire to remain remote

- *"Distance learning is working for my child and is the safest way to be until the end of the school year"*
- *"I'm fine sending my child back, but I'd rather they finish the year doing distance learning. It seems unwise to send them back for just two months"*

... often driven by concern for the health of other household members

- *"I have elderly family members at home and sending my child back puts them at risk"*
- *"My concern is that my child brings the virus home on accident - his grandparents are vulnerable to the disease"*

As community vaccination rates increase and more elderly or sick relatives are protected, families may be more comfortable having their child on campus