



**AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2020-2021 SCHOOL REOPENING
OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JULY 20, 2020**

Presented by Superintendent Dr. Amy Slavensky
and Cabinet Members



Agenda

1. Current Context
2. Transitioning Students Back to Our Schools
3. Current Considerations
 - Health & Safety
 - Fiscal Implications
 - Personnel & Labor Partners
4. Survey Information
5. Scenario Planning
6. Stakeholder Committees / Recommendations
7. Next Steps
8. Questions
9. Public Comment
10. Discussion / Action

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Current Context

- School Districts are in an unprecedented situation of grappling simultaneously with a public health pandemic and budget constraints.
- Public health guidance and government orders are constantly changing.
- Adaptability and flexibility will be essential to respond to these changing situations now, and throughout the new school year.

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Current Context

The District's goal is to have a full re-opening of schools as soon as it is safe and permissible to do so.

- This is extremely challenging to do, given the current COVID-19 circumstances and accompanying requirements for schools.
- Extensive collaboration with labor partners, staff, and families is ongoing.

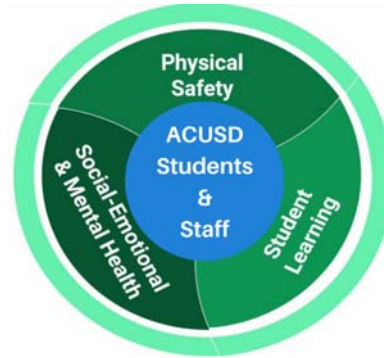
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Current Context

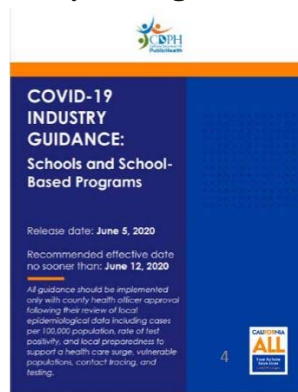
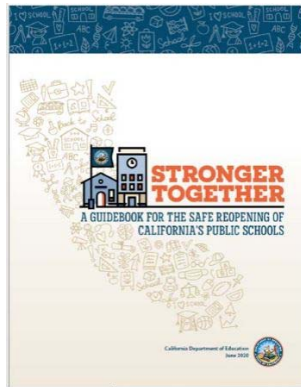
OUR MISSION

Enriched by the diversity and deep traditions of our unique community, Amador County Public Schools will prepare, support, and inspire each student to achieve career and college success in a rapidly evolving world through highly engaging teaching, rigorous learning and innovative pathways supported by strong partnerships in a safe, caring, and collaborative environment.



Transitioning Students Back to Our Schools

To keep our community safe, we must modify our behaviors in schools in alignment with state and county health guidelines.





Being Nimble and Adaptable

Our planning strategy is to be fluid and swiftly responsive to rapidly changing health conditions.

Either:

- Bringing students back to school under diminishing COVID-19 conditions
- Moving students to distance learning under increasing COVID-19 conditions

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Current Considerations: Health & Safety

Promoting safety with behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19

- Encourage and educate all students, families, and staff when not to come to school or work if sick
- Increased frequency of handwashing throughout the day
- Face coverings must be worn by all staff and students who are medically able to do so
- Staff and students have access to supplies to maintain a healthy and safe environment
- Alternative options for students and staff who are considered to be in higher risk groups

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Current Considerations: Health & Safety

Maintaining a healthy environment and operations

- Follow 6-foot social distancing guidelines when designing classrooms, offices, and on busses
- Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting
- Wellness screening for all students and staff
- Training and education for all staff, families, and students on healthy preventative practices

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Current Considerations: Health & Safety

Preparing for when someone gets sick

- Clear communication for families and staff on what to do when there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case
- Communication pathways and response protocols for multiple scenarios:
 - Scenario A (low risk): Precautionary notification
 - Scenario B (moderate risk): Cautionary notification
 - Scenario C (high risk): Alert Public Health and affected population

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Current Considerations: Fiscal Implications

- **The State budget includes a zero COLA**
 - *Flat funding which does not support inflation and other rising costs*
 - *No adjustment for annual increases such as step & column, ongoing facilities costs for our aging buildings, and growing costs for special education*
- **Increased costs associated with in-person learning**
 - *Increased custodial services*
 - *Increased staff for supervision*
 - *Personal protective equipment (PPE)*
 - *Social distancing signage*
- **Availability of cash to meet our financial obligations due to state deferrals of apportionment funding**

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Current Considerations: Personnel & Labor Partners

- The ability to staff all classrooms in a hybrid model with qualified, appropriately credentialed teachers
 - The need to ensure adequate custodial services for necessary cleaning and sanitizing
 - The priority to continue collaborating effectively with our labor partners
- [June 19, 2020 Survey Data](#)
- 31 of 214 teachers (14%) have indicated they are not able to return to physical classrooms
 - 43 of 214 teachers (20%) have child care needs in the event of a hybrid model

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Survey Information

Family & Staff Survey

- Sent to all families on June 26
- 2,410 responses = 60% of students

	Hybrid Model	Distance Learning	Need Child Care (Elementary)
Number	1,759	651	418
Percentage	44% of all students 73% of survey respondents	16% of all students 27% of survey respondents	21%

Teacher Survey

- Sent to all teachers on June 19
- Principals ensured all teachers responded

	Unable to Return to Work	Need Child Care	Yes to Teaching Distance Learning
Number	31	43	94
Percentage	14%	20%	44%

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Stakeholder Committees

Staff Committee

- Representative of all staff
- Met on June 10 and June 18

Parent / Guardian Committee

- Representative of all school sites and grade spans
- Met on June 19 and June 22

Elementary and Secondary Subcommittees

- Representatives from the original staff and parent / guardian committees
- Tasked to come up with recommendations for the Board to consider

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Stakeholder Committees

Parent/Guardian Committee

Vicci Fikes, Amador HS
 Amy Drake, Amador HS
 Cyndi Bonini, Argonaut HS
 James Marzano, Argonaut HS, Jackson JHS
 Patti Fisher-Misuraca, Ione community
 Deborah Pulskamp, Ione community
 Jen Bordwell, Ione Elementary
 Michaela Rider, Ione Elementary
 Sarah Scatena, Ione Elementary
 Abigail Hakala, Ione Elementary
 Sally Arnst, Jackson Elementary
 Rachelle Zimmer, Jackson Elementary
 Nikki Silveira, Jackson Elementary, Jackson JHS
 Lisa Varwig, Jackson Elementary
 Grace Sparks, Jackson Elementary
 Neil Carlson, Jackson Elementary
 Batina Whitehead, Jackson JHS
 Brooke Wunschel, Plymouth Elementary, Ione JHS
 Alicia Vega, Plymouth Elementary, Ione JHS
 Jennifer Pritchard, Plymouth Elementary
 Regine Miller, Pine Grove Elementary
 Katie & Sean Dunham, Pioneer Elementary
 Andrea & Gary Troublefield, Pioneer Elementary
 Jaclyn Harty, Sutter Creek Elementary/Primary
 Dana Leusch, Sutter Creek Elementary/Primary
 Matther Hooper, Sutter Creek Elementary/Primary
 Sean Murphy, Sutter Creek Elementary/Primary

Staff Committee

Linda Daly, Teacher on Special Assignment
 Michaelynn Angie, SPED Teacher, Argonaut HS
 Natalie Knittel, Teacher, Jackson JHS
 Richard Modesti, Principal, Ione JHS
 Sinead Klement, Teacher on Special Assignment
 Jessica Dorris, Principal, Amador HS
 Tracy Morlan, Speech/Language Pathologist, Pioneer Elementary
 Troy Gassaway, Principal, Argonaut HS
 Rachael Shaw-Escalona, SPED Teacher, Ione Elementary
 Amy Roussan, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary
 Christina Cardenas, Classified Employee, Argonaut HS
 Jeni DeWalt, Principal, Ione Elementary
 Lisa Neville, Teacher, Plymouth Elementary
 Megan Mathison, Paraprofessional, Jackson Elementary
 Scott Hunkins, Teacher/ACTA President, Argonaut HS
 Theresa Cramer, Transportation/CSEA President
 Amy Slavensky, District Office
 David Vicari, District Office
 Jared Critchfield, District Office
 Kathryn Brown, District Office
 Sean Snider, District Office



Stakeholder Committees

Elementary Subcommittee

Patti Fisher-Misuraca (parent/teacher)
 Michaela Rider (parent)
 Abigail Hakala (parent)
 Lisa Varwig (parent/teacher)
 Grace Sparks (parent)
 Jennifer Pritchard (parent)
 Andrea Troublefield (parent)
 Dana Leusch (parent)
 Linda Daly (teacher)
 Tracy Morlan (speech/language pathologist)
 Rachael Shaw-Escalona (sped teacher/SEAC/ parent)
 Lisa Neville (teacher/ACTA)
 Megan Mathison (paraprofessional/CSEA/parent)
 Jeni DeWalt (principal/parent)

Secondary Subcommittee

Jessica Dorris (principal/secondary parent)
 Rich Modesti (principal)
 Sinead Klement (TOSA/secondary parent)
 Natalie Knittel (teacher/secondary parent)
 Scott Hunkins (teacher/ACTA)
 Michaelynn Angie (teacher/SEAC)
 Theresa Cramer (classified employee/CSEA/grandparent)
 Betina Whitehead (secondary parent)
 Brook Wunschel (secondary parent)
 Cyndi Bonini (secondary parent)
 Regine Miller (secondary parent)



Scenario Planning

IF: Amador County Public Health Officer Declares Phase 1

THEN: Revitalized, Standards-Aligned Distance Learning for All Students

- Assembly Bill (AB) 77 was approved on June 26, 2020 providing new requirements for distance learning beginning with the 2020-2021 school year

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Scenario Planning

Distance Learning Changes for 2020-2021

AB 77 Provides Specific Requirements for Distance Learning

(See attachment in board packet for details.)

Key AB 77 and District-Initiated Changes:

- Daily live interaction with certificated employees and peers is required
- Daily attendance taken for students
- Instructional materials sent home
- Assessments given and grades issued
- Curriculum options narrowed to a select few
- Academic and other student supports, including social-emotional learning support
- Devices and hotspots for students that need them
- 180 instructional days required
- Nutritious meals offered

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Scenario Planning

Distance Learning Changes for 2020-2021

AB 77 Provides Specific Requirements for Distance Learning

(See attachment in board packet for details.)

Key AB 77 and District-Initiated Changes (Continued):

- Quality, challenging content aligned to grade level standards, equivalent to in-person instruction
- Special education, related services, and accommodations required by an IEP or 504 provided
- Designated and integrated instruction in English language development (ELD)
- Daily Minimum Instructional Minute Requirements
 - Can be a combination of in-person and distance learning
 - 180 for Kindergarten
 - 230 for grades 1-3
 - 240 for grades 4-12
 - 180 for continuation high schools
 - Minimum physical education minutes waived

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Scenario Planning

IF: Amador County Public Health Officer Declares Phase 2 or 3

THEN: Rigorous, Supportive Options for Families Including a Hybrid Model and Distance Learning

Key Features:

- All key features from AB 77 apply
- This is where the hybrid models are possible
- In-person instruction to the greatest extent possible
- 6 foot distancing and masks are required on campus at all times

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Scenario Planning

IF: Amador County Public Health Officer Declares Phase 4

THEN: Full Return to School Campuses with Other Options for Families

Key Features:

- This is the brick and mortar school as we know it.
- Distance Learning may still be an option for families desiring it.
- Homeschool / Independent Study may still be an option.

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Elementary Subcommittee Recommendations

Three Options for Families

1. Hybrid Model
 - 2 cohorts of students
 - Each cohort attends 2 half-days per week (Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday)
 - Virtual live teacher/peer interaction in the afternoon
2. Full Time Distance Learning
 - Significantly different as detailed on slides 18 & 19
3. Home School
 - Weekly meetings with teacher for instruction/support
 - Parent provides most of the instruction/support at home

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Secondary Subcommittee Recommendations

Three Options for Families

1. Hybrid Model
 - 2 cohorts of students
 - Each cohort attends 2 full days per week
2. Full Time Distance Learning
 - Significantly different as detailed on slides 18 & 19
3. North Star Independent Study School
 - Weekly meetings with teacher for instruction/support
 - Parent provides most of the instruction/support at home

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Additional Recommendation

Negotiate with our labor partners to:

- Delay the first day of school from Wednesday, August 12 to Monday, August 17.
- Provide 5 days of planning time and professional learning for our teachers and principals on August 10-14.
- Move the last day of school to later in June or identify 3 other non-school days during the year to become school days.
- Determine how to address 3 additional teacher work days while maintaining fiscal discipline and continuing to rebuild our reserve funds.

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Planning in a Dynamic Environment

- A draft “Health & Safety Plan During Covid-19” has been developed with the current public health guidance and California Department of Education guidance on school reopening.
- As public health and state/local government orders and public health guidance are revised, these plans will be revised.
- Specific implementation details will be developed as school leaders apply this information to their school campuses, in collaboration with school staff.
- Additional actions may be added or modified as necessary during implementation.
- Given the dynamic and unprecedented situation no plan is final as it will continue to evolve

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Next Steps

- Communicate the Board’s decision on school reopening to employees and families.
- Continue to collaborate and negotiate with labor partners on school reopening effects.
- Continue planning to implement school reopening with modifications for COVID-19.
- Provide mandatory COVID-19 health and safety training for all employees.
- Continue planning to better support teachers, students, and families if distance learning for all is required.
- Provide professional development and collaboration time for teachers and principals.
- Continue to keep the Board informed of progress, problems and solutions.
- Reconvene the Board as needed to revisit today’s decision.

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QUESTIONS



PUBLIC COMMENT



