Employee Survey March 2021 - Certificated Employees - Elementary

Pending Board approval, the next step in our Phased Reopening of Schools Plan will be to increase in-person learning time from 2 days a week to 4 days a week for students in the hybrid model. Please mark the date that you prefer to begin 4 days a week of in-person learning.

66 responses

- I'm excited to welcome everyone back and I feel safe doing so. I do think it's smart to not start the week after spring break so that way teacher's don't have to prep during their time off!
- I do not see how we can do this and still maintain proper safety distancing between students, especially the 6-foot distancing requirement agreed upon in the MOU that is still in effect. We are STILL in a pandemic, and the agreement was to keep teachers SIX FEET from students, even as the CDC has allowed students to be 4 feet apart. Teachers are still in more danger in this situation than students are. Not all teachers are vaccinated. Some are still high risk. I just think it is not in the best interest of all to even entertain this 4-day plan, especially when the schools with larger populations would be impacted more than the schools with fewer students.
- Why now? What on site planning is being done? Not each school is the same. A cookie cutter approach does not work considering the diversity of our campus sizes and locations.
- Please do not change what our school schedule looks like for the third time this school year. While hybrid is not a perfect system, making a hasty plan to bring kids back 4 days a week is not ideal for employees and families. There is not enough room in my classroom to accommodate 20 students with 4 ft - 6ft distance. At this time, we are not prepared to have all of our students back in our classrooms while maintaining CDC guidelines. It would be best to make a solid, well laid out plan for next school year.
• I don’t see how it is possible to fit 21 desks in my room in a way that makes it so students can all see what they need to, and also be 4 feet apart.

• I do not want to change to routine until the school can go back 5 days a week with no restrictions. My kids will not fit in my classroom, if all of them are coming 4 days a week. I do not mind if a few select students that are very low come back four days a week, but not all of my students.

• While I think students might benefit from being in school more, I do not think that being in school for a month is the best idea. I think the best idea for all involved is to keep things as they are for the remainder of the school year, and then try for a longer week next school year. And no, I am not afraid to be at school, but are you in class with my students? Do you know what they say to me about all that is going on in the world?

• I think it’s confusing to change when we are almost done with the school year. Starting fresh at 4 days/week in fall is the best option in my opinion.

• I already have my special education students back four full days a week now and it has been going very well. I think it is time that all the schools and classrooms go to the same. I received my vaccine and feel much more comfortable about being in a classroom full of students. Please let all the students go back to school four days a week.

• The students have already had so many changes over the past year. 3 more month of normalcy would greatly benefit them.

• The last thing our students need is to navigate yet ANOTHER change this school year. If we can work to ensure our campuses are safe and ready for them come August, that will be the best thing we can do. Children need structure and routine, we should not attempt to change things (with little warning) again.

• It does not make sense to change our schedules again this close to the end of the school year. Students and staff have been through far too many changes already just to change it again. It will be near impossible to teach Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten or any younger grades during a pandemic with a full class of students and keep them safe without a classroom aide to help do this. In a normal year kindergarten teachers get aides to help when we are not in a pandemic. I also don’t believe it will be equitable to all students.

• Will we still be following social distancing? Will all students return at the same time? I have concerns about spacing and having all of my students be able to see my presentations in the front of the room. If families aren’t comfortable with a “full-class” model, will they be able to switch to DL?

• I am so excited that our district is moving in this direction! With our teachers and staff having the opportunity to receive the vaccine, and the postive last few months during hybrid learning, it is time to move to the next step! Whahooo!!!

• It is too early to get rid of cohorts, especially with the possibility of another wave of variants in the next few months.
• It is not safe for students to be packed into classrooms until the population has reached herd immunity. That will be in August, probably.

• The message you may be getting from ACTA doesn’t represent all of us. I know of many teachers who are willing and ready to return to the classroom and do whatever it takes to make in person learning happen more. The students that I have brought back four days a week have already shown tremendous growth and it isn’t right to keep others home when we know that it is best for them to be attending school in person.

• At a recent ACTA meeting, it was requested by a group of teachers to send out a survey to teachers to see where they stand on returning to school. This idea was met with many negative remarks and despite the fact that one of our teachers has created the survey for them, ACTA still has not surveyed the teachers. It leaves many of us feeling like those in control of ACTA don’t want to return to school and are therefore unwilling to let any other opinions be heard. PLEASE get us back in person as much as possible!!

• Thank you so much for advocating for students to return to classrooms 4 days per week!

• If we are wearing masks and still observing “distance” protocols, students are still semi-isolated from an actual school environment. This is critical. For students in combo classes, the overall challenge is greater: How do we separate both grade levels and provide adequate safe-guards in one room – and at the same time? Can we guarantee that our students and staff will be safe – especially at a time when our governor is advocating wearing 2 masks instead of just one?

• The only way we should return to 4 days per week in person is if the 4’ spacing requirement (which is the absolute minimum) is lifted. We do not have the space to fit students back into the classrooms with 4’ of spacing. We do not have enough desks to accommodate all of the students 4 days per week since a lot of teachers had moved to flexible seating. We don't have space to store other furniture that would need to be moved out of the classrooms. In addition, busing, space in the cafeterias, and overall social distancing is going to be nearly impossible at many school sites. In addition, I think many parents would be concerned to only have 4’ of spacing between desks with a full classroom. This is NOT an easy transition and will require a ton of work by principals, teachers, and support staff. We already continue to have to do our every day work, including meetings, lesson planning, grading, etc. This will add an additional stressor that concerns me. It will pretty much eliminate the ability to do small group instruction. In addition, staff morale is extremely low, and I think this might just push people over the edge. We have had 3 first days of school this year, and this would make 4. It’s a TON, and I mean a TON of work.

• Desks need to be ordered and delivered for my particular classroom, and 2 strong men/women will need to move all of the tables out before I can bring everyone back. I currently have 8 very heavy science tables that wouldn't allow for the proper spacing. I am willing to have all of my students back, 4 days per week, as soon as the classroom is ready! Thank you

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• I am happy to have kids return 4 days a with a morning session and an afternoon session. This was not clear to me in the first question. If that is the case then I would be happy to start on the
March 29th. However, if you thinking about sending ALL kids back to 4 days at the same time, then I would be inclined to say this would not be possible. I do NOT have enough room for desks if I am to maintain social distancing. In fact, I do NOT have enough desks. If this is the plan, then all logistics need to addressed.

- What will the hybrid model look like? Will this be an AM/PM schedule? All students? Will classes need to shift in order to keep social distancing if all students are to return together. More information is needed in order to make a decision on a start date!

- I do not think we should have a full class of students. There is not enough room to continue to social distance with more than 10 students in my classroom. I'm also not sure how we can be expected to answer this question without more information. What would four days a week in the hybrid model look like? It is a ridiculous that during every break we have had this year, teachers are forced to plan for something new when we return. We do not get paid to plan over our time off and reorganize everything in our classroom once again.

- We need to finish the school year without adding more changes. We need to focus our energy into Summer School and the start up of our 21-22 school year.

- The transition will be very difficult for little kids. Change is tough, but with school and home life changes — filling the room again and changing all routines could be very difficult for them. Why not finish the school year out as is at elementary? Start next school year back new.

- What safety precautions will be taken with more students on campus?

- I am fortunate to have room in my classroom to return my entire roster. I know that many other teachers do not have this luxury. As much as I want my students back, the challenges that will be presented to staff on all campuses may be too much to overcome.

- I don't believe there is a way to re-open on those dates based on the current contract. A realistic timeframe should firstly be based on the renegotiation for a new contract.

- The students would greatly benefit from four days a week.

- This is crazy! Why isn't there a question asking if we want to return at full capacity before the end of the year? The survey is not written well.

- I am concerned because the number of students I have cannot possibly fit in my classroom while at the same time following the guidelines. I feel like corners are being cut in order to push this ahead too soon. My hope is that the board takes into account the toll this year have taken on the teachers this year and the constant changes made without enough time to prepare. We are given days to prepare something that seems to be an impossible task and yet we have worked ourselves to the point of exhaustion to meet the demands of our board.

- This is hard to answer. I am not able to follow guidelines and allow all my students back all day 4 days a week. I'm not sure if this is what this survey is asking. I am ok with starting am/pm 12 kids per am and 12 kids per pm with following guidelines. I could technically fit more kids into my classroom, but they would not be able to see the board/tv. I don't see how that helps the kid if they can't see to learn. I do not want to feel like I have to come in over Spring Break to get my
room prepared. I would prefer to not start right after break, that way I have another Wednesday to get ready. I do not want to have to reconfigure classes again. It is such an emotional toll on all of us. I just don’t think I could handle that. If we do am/pm, does that mean we have to give kids work to do at home, or they just get what we do in class? Will buses be offered for both am and pm to and from school? How will lunches/breakfast work on an am/pm schedule? How much time after the first group leaves and the next group arrives will we have? Have you accounted for the amount of time it takes parents to pick up and drop off in the schedule? I don’t want to have to wait for kids to get picked up and miss my time to eat and take my breathing break between groups. With our large school, how would our recess schedule work? Would we even get a recess? How many? Will parents be able to switch to DL if they are not ready to come back right now? Could someone come check out my board/tv area and see if we can fix it so that more kids can see better? Can I get my upper windows blacked out to cut down on the glare? Will we be 6 ft or 4 ft or something else apart? Will kids need to be 6ft from us if we move to 4 ft between seats? Can I get new desks since I loaned mine to a kindergarten teacher? I only have 14. Will we have double the amount of desks per students if we are doing am/pm so they don’t have to share desks? I am sure more questions will come up.

• I would love to have my whole class back 4 days a week. The only concern I have is that there is a good chance that I will have to dissolve the 4/5 split that I am currently teaching, sending my 4th grade students to a different teacher. These kids have had too much upheaval in their lives as it is. I’d prefer to come back and not have to keep the distancing guidelines, so that my class isn’t split up. I don’t feel it’s fair to make them switch teachers with only 2 months left of school.

• Our classrooms are not equipped to support social distancing with a full class. The district must buy new furniture and remove the old to make this work. When and how will this be accomplished by our short staffed custodial team, who can barely get everything sanitized? Not all protocols are being followed because there is not enough people or time. I am concerned that we will jump into going back full-time too soon and face devastating short sights because we are ill prepared. Please be sure this is planned out and implemented well so that our district doesn’t sacrifice safety or look like fools again or in front of the community. Thank you.

• If the 4 foot apart rule still applies with all of the kids coming back, many will not be able to see the white board or smart board where they will have to sit. Good teaching should still apply and not purposely frustrating 5 year olds who can’t see what the teacher is teaching would be a goal that I hope the district would consider. The placement of Smart Boards and white boards were not taken into account during a socially distanced pandemic!

• There is no way to answer this question with fidelity! It does not address any of the “how” we would “increase in-person learning time from 2 days a week to 4 days a week of in person learning.” Staff have no idea what schedules the board is considering. Staff have no idea what safety protocols can be kept intact with an increase in students. What impact will an increase have on busing, timely and efficient arrival and dismissal, student health screening? What impact
will it have on classroom configurations at the elementary level and the limited common space available at JJH? Is there a possibility that the upheaval this will cause could be detrimental to students, especially secondary students, in the 4th quarter? Have any of these things been thought about? There is no way to answer this question at this time.

- This should be negotiated.
- I am concerned with how to organize my classroom for a 4 day week instruction. I need to be able to have guided reading and math groups. Is this something that would be possible with the return to school?
- The sooner the better. I think kids are really struggling and need to return to normal school as soon as they can.
- I have lots of questions and comments. Does this mean 4 days a week, all kids back in the classroom at the same time? If so, where are we to put the kids and still social distance?
- I do not have room in my room for a full class with furniture. I already moved a great deal of furniture out of my room to make room. I absolutely refuse to do any more furniture moving! I spent so much of my own time to do so, with only teachers to help! No! I also would need desks! I only have 12 desks. Is the district going to purchase desks for our school?
- None of this is even addressing how we are going to deal with the kids needs, shortcomings, learning gaps, and everything else this nonsense has hit us with? How do we teach a small group if we have no place to do it or too many kids?
- There is one very positive outcome from this mess. Our students' behaviors have improved tremendously! Children that were in trouble everyday during K-2nd grades, are suddenly following directions, staying out of trouble, and learning with these smaller class sizes. With better behavior, not only is more learning going on in the classroom, but kids feel safer and happier at school. One of my students told me that he didn't want school to end this year. When I asked him why he told me because he isn't in trouble anymore, he can pay attention more because there are so few kids, and he can get help from me. A 3rd grader figured it out. Small class sizes make a huge difference in behavior, learning and the classroom environment!
- Also, our school is so full, how are we supposed to schedule recesses and lunches for a school our size? In our 4th grades, our classes are too big to handle our load because you made us give up a 4th grade teacher and threw all the kids into 2 classes. This will cause a reconfiguration again of our students in our school. How dare you even think about moving our kids from teacher to teacher again? That is so not good for kids!
- If you want to bring them back for 4 days, then you should do one cohort in the morning and other half in the afternoon, like we should have done in the first place. This would have been so much better for our children and their families. Yes, bussing would have been costly, but sometimes we need to bite the bullet and do what is right! Our parents were prepared for that situation. They all figured out how to get their kids to school because that is what we told them we were doing when we went back to school. And then it all changed and caused mass headaches for our families.
- Start thinking what is best for our kids and parents. Parents and kids will not be happy if you start moving our kids from teacher to a new teacher at this point in the year. Also, how are you going to stop the distance learning kids from wanting to come back and cause even more chaos in our school?

- Please think about all of these problems and solve them before you make a decision. You cannot rely on the teachers to solve all of the problems again. We are tired, overworked, and stressed. How much more can we handle?

- If you want to do this right, you need to hire more teachers, buy more desks, and keep the class sizes small in elementary.

- The district and the board knows that most classrooms cannot fit 24+ students in them whilst also following the CDC guidelines. To ask teachers to respond to this survey without giving them any option to state that they would like to return safely and correctly in August is ludicrous. Our UNION has an active MOU that states students must be 4.5’ apart, even if you were to shrink that to the CDC guidelines of 4’ there is still NO room for a full class of students, while properly distanced.

- Beyond that I have heard that the board thinks that teachers would be willing to move tables, extra desks, etc outside of their classrooms into hallways. Unless you want those items vandalized, stolen, or moved onto the roof, it is not safe for them to be placed outside. Even if all of that furniture was safely and properly stored, again, there is still NOT enough room for 24 bodies in a classroom with a 4.5’ distance.

- To ask teachers to go back to school full time after spring break means you are going to stress out teachers more than you already have this school year. You say that you are concerned for teacher’s mental health, but clearly you are not. This survey is ignoring teacher needs, this survey is not allowing teachers to fully voice their opinions, and isn't giving teachers the options that they need to feel supported or safe.

- Some sites don’t have full staffs, and are using substitutes with emergency credentials to cover and support classrooms that would otherwise be teacher-less, and there is a very high chance that those substitutes will not be willing to come teach full time.

- Many classrooms are now combination classes that were once straight grades, teaching a combination in a normal year is one thing, teaching it in hybrid is okay since only one grade is on campus at a time, attempting to teach a combination class, with 24 bodies in the room while also attempting to keep the students physically distanced is an impossible task.

- The board has shown that they DO NOT support teachers in any way, shape or form. President Kandi has shown that she is selfish and only cares about getting her daughters back in school, I wonder if she understands that most colleges are still doing distance learning for a reason, and when her daughters graduate this spring they will be right back in DL if they choose to go to college next Fall.

- I am embarrassed to work in this district, I am discouraged that the board thinks that their opinion matters more than that of the people doing the job in the classroom. The board constantly says "Our job is the what it's up to you to figure out the how.” Well there's NO WAY to figure out the how when our classrooms are too small, and our staff is underpaid, and overworked.

- This is too difficult to vote on without enough information as to whether students will continue to socially distance, and if so, at what distance 6 feet, 4 feet, or not at all.
I personally feel comfortable returning to full-time teaching. Having said that I realize that some schools do not offer adequate space for distancing. I believe it is the job of the school board and The district to make adjustments to accommodate this. A great example is the types of portable classrooms we use. The structures were meant to be temporary and have become permanent. These classrooms, in the best of times, are cramped.

I fully support a return to in person learning 4 days a week. ACTA does NOT represent all members and it is time to put our students first. We have been successful in following COVID guidelines and it’s time to get our kids back in the classroom. It is our job to educate the kids of ACUSD! Let’s move forward with a positive and enthusiastic tone and get our kids back in the classroom.

Opening needs to wait until we are in the orange tier.

There is no way Lone Elementary will be able logistically open right after school break. We are the largest Elementary school in the district. We have small classroom issues, one-way drop-off and pick-up issues, cafeteria issues and so much more as the largest elementary school.

Please, feel free to come down and speak with the staff as a group in regards to the many problems we have that precludes us from opening safely and according to CDC guidelines. If it was business as usual, we’d have no problem opening tomorrow. The restrictions that are placed upon us are too grave in order for us to abide in full so early.

What's wrong with 5 days a week?

I would like the schools to open 4 or 5 days a week ASAP. Our students are suffering. The curve is bent, vaccines are out and we have no risk of overwhelming hospitals anymore. There is no reason why our schools should not be open 100%. We can do it!

I am a DL teacher and so appreciate the position.

Exactly HOW would this be possible to happen in a timely fashion? Who will move my room around to make it possible to fit all the necessary desks and chairs in my room? There is no way I am spending my spring break moving my room around. I have already made plans. Had anyone done the math to determine whether the classrooms are all large enough to fit all the students currently on rosters in desks, with spacing, AND see the board? What happened to the MOU that says students will not be closer than 4.5 feet? Has there been real thought to how this will work, especially with DL students and class reconfigurations that occurred when we went DL? Will it be that anyone coming wanting to come back can? What if there is not enough room for everyone to come back who wants to come back? And now it is suddenly safe possible to bring everyone back, without spacing, without cohorts and everything will be sanitized as normal? Are you planning on hiring two more janitors per site. Double the sanitizing work which our current janitorial staff CAN BARELY STAY ON TOP OF. Do I want to go back? Yes! I don't have any confidence at all that you have truly thought things through. Zero confidence.
Why upset something now, that is working, with less than 60 days of school left? Seems counter productive and potential to add unwarranted stress and another unnecessary change for ALL staff and families involved.

Please give the high school seniors ALL the privileges' that they deserve and have missed out on including, homecoming, senior trip, dances, football games, sports, and off campus lunch etc.

Dear ACUSD School Board,

My name is [redacted]. I am a Kindergarten teacher at Jackson Elementary School. I am writing to you to voice my concerns regarding the implementation of a 4 day a week schedule for the rest of this school year. I completely acknowledge that the hybrid model is challenging for all involved. I want nothing more than to have my students back at school everyday. However, at the elementary level, and especially in the primary grades, there are so many logistics to getting all students back safely and in a way that is developmentally appropriate for young children. I think bringing all secondary students who choose to return 4 days a week may be realistic. Secondary teachers have classes that consist of both DL and Hybrid students and are teaching the same content to both daily. It is much easier to transition between the two modes of learning.

Elementary schools are set up very differently and bringing back all students everyday while still following health and safety guidelines will bring many challenges. Please consider the following before implementing such a huge change to our elementary schools when there are only 57 school days left this year.

* Elementary schools have separate in person and DL classes with separate teachers. I have 23 students on my roster. 12 come in Cohort 1 and 11 come in Cohort 2. To bring all students back 4 days a week I would have 23 students in my room at a time just like I would in a "normal" school year.

*I have been told I can move tables and bookshelves into the hallway to accommodate more desks for more students. I see several issues with this plan:

- Fire Safety issues by having hallways full of tables and bookshelves
- Arranging 23 desks so all students can see the monitor in my classroom
- Not having enough desks because under normal circumstances I have students sit 6 to a table which did not follow the 4 foot distancing. I was able to borrow desks from another classroom but they will need those back if all their students are returning. So additional desks would need to be purchased.

*Even if we are able to fit 23 Kindergarten students in my room with no other furniture in the room they will be forced to sit in their desks for 6 hours a day receiving direct instruction over my computer and document camera. There will be no way to do any types of learning centers or small group work as I won’t have anywhere to set these things up. I also won’t have enough manipulatives and art materials on hand for 23 students to use at once. Right now I can have materials for 12 and then sanitize for use by the next cohort the next day. There are no circumstances where 6 hours of direct instruction in a desk is appropriate for Kindergarten students. Please consider if this is the type of learning environment you would have wanted your Kindergarten student in.

*Even though I have had to change the way I teach Kindergarten for the hybrid model to follow the distancing guidelines I feel I can still offer them a somewhat appropriate education on their in person days. Having only 12 students in the room gives me the opportunity to really monitor student learning, work with students who need extra help and still do some hands on activities
that are crucial for young learners. I will not be able to give students the same level of attention with 23 in a classroom without being able to teach in small groups and implement learning stations.

*There are so many other logistics like lunch for classes of 23-26 students, proper distancing on busses, arrival and dismissal (the amount of kids in an area will double, health screening before school (the amount of kids will double), yard supervisors on the playground (the amount of kids will double). Extra personnel will need to be hired and this is always a challenge but especially so with this limited amount of time. I strongly feel Elementary should continue as is for the remainder of this school year (57 school days) Students and parents have established a routine. I remember board member Mr. Whittaker expressing at a board meeting not long ago how important consistency is for our students and families. As a compromise in Elementary schools, a few additional desks may be added to rooms to accommodate seriously struggling students so they can attend 4 days a week. If a decision is made to return all students to school 4 days a week I feel the board needs to be accepting of the fact that proper distancing will not be possible the way it is now. While most of the staff are vaccinated our students and their families are not. In my opinion schools should still be responsible to adhere to health and safety guidelines to keep community members safe. As I write this Amador County is still in the Purple Tier with "widespread" cases of the coronavirus. It may be possible to move forward to 4 day weeks for secondary students, but the way the district chose to implement the hybrid program in the elementary schools makes it very challenging. Please take the time to make a very thoughtful decision on this next phase of re-opening schools. It is much more complicated than the desire to have students back on campus 4 days a week.

- Thank you,

I have emailed this letter to the board, but here it is again. Thank you.

Dear Amador County Unified District School Board,

My name is and I am a resident of Jackson, a parent of two ACUSD students, and a Kindergarten teacher at Jackson Elementary School. I am emailing you today to voice my concerns regarding the upcoming discussion to return all students to school 4 days a week. I want to start off by acknowledging, every form of schooling during the pandemic has had its challenges and shortfalls. I, of course, want my students back daily in my classroom. However, the amount of challenges that face our elementary schools to return in person 4 days a week is overwhelming and will take time, planning, a collaboration between our admin and teachers, and strict adherence to CDC guidelines. Our students and their families have had many disruptions to their school year, as have all students in our state, country, and world. At the time I write this we have 57 days remaining in our school year. We have just now gotten into a routine that young children understand, are prepared for, and are learning under. Our classrooms are following distancing, masking, and cohort guidelines and it is working to keep our students safe. In the past, the board has been hyper-focused on making decisions without knowing HOW their decision will be executed in our schools or how it will impact our youngest learners and as a teacher and mother of young children, I beg you ALL, to take into consideration the following things before
deciding when to return- understanding the HOW is important and necessary in the
decision-making process...
The elementary hybrid model was set up differently than the secondary model. In November,
most of our elementary students who wanted to continue distance learning were removed from
their current teachers and placed in a distance-learning-only teachers class. For many teachers
like myself, this meant I lost 7 students and gained 7 brand new students on my first day of
in-person classes on 11/16. I currently have 24 students in hybrid. If I could fit 24 desks 4 feet
apart the seating arrangement would be extremely cramped and 5-year-olds will be placed in the
farthest part of my room away from myself and the tv monitor, making meaningful instruction
strained at best. In a normal year, I would have 6 students at a table, I am unable to do that and
keep with CDC guidelines. If all 24 of my students return I will be forced to limit my attention and
instruction to handwashing, mask assistance, and any naturally disruptive behaviors that
routinely occur in primary classrooms. I want to be clear that the challenges of having 24
students in my classroom during a pandemic are NOT the same as a class of 24 pre-pandemic. I
have had to rework my teaching to fit the hybrid program, but I feel that at the very least the fact
that I have 12 students a day allows me the time to invest in each of those 12 students and meet
their needs. If that number is doubled, my time for each child is cut in half if not more.
If we return with all of the students 4 days a week the first 2-3 weeks of school will be heavily
focused on NEW classroom routines and procedures as the entire day will need to be
restructured to accommodate staffing, limited outdoor space/recess, and cafeteria times, and
the sheer influx of balancing 24 students needs while distanced. Students will need time to get to
know one another and navigate all of the new dynamics of the class- for the 3rd time this school
year. This time will eat away much of the daily instruction that is currently happening in hybrid.
The individual materials in my classroom that I have prepared for my students in order to limit
sharing of supplies (pencil boxes of supplies, manipulatives, stem bins, etc) were mainly
purchased by myself and I barely had enough to divide up equally between 12 students, I surely
will not have enough for 24, leaving students at their desks 6 hours a day with not much more
than what is provided by the school, and that isn’t much (pencils, paper, crayons, and a glue
stick). My normal go-to, best practice strategies that keep students engaged, learning, and
interactive are severely limited with distancing and students at desks.
I have touched on this before, but with the enlarged class sizes, I anticipate difficulty in meeting
the needs of my struggling students. It is my understanding that while a quick walk of the
classroom to “check-in or redirect” students are considered safe- spending large amounts of time
within 6 feet of my students is not safe. Even for those teachers who are vaccinated, the science
is still out on if we can catch it and carry it back to our families, so all the safety precautions by
the CDC still need to be implemented... which as you can imagine, is already difficult with the
demands of young students.
Students and many of their family members are not vaccinated. The amount of staffing to
provide the daily morning check-in, double the amount of kids with temps/ not feeling well,
dismissal organization will overwhelm our staff and spaces and make it very difficult to continue
keeping our students and their families safe- because of how we do things in hybrid right now,
will not be sustainable. Students at JES can no longer eat breakfast and lunch distanced in a
classroom, they will be sitting closely with other classmates unmasked for at least 20 minutes
daily exposing students to many illnesses avoided so far this year, including but not limited to the
common cold and seasonal flu. Once again causing an inconsistent learning environment when
children present with covid symptoms and are quarantined. As Mr. Whittaker stated in the
January board meeting- our families need consistency. We have that in the hybrid model in elementary schools. A full return to 4 days may be a reasonable task for high school at this point (given their current hybrid model’s ability to morph), but I urge you to consider keeping elementary in the current hybrid model for the remainder of the school year- and if you still believe it is safe, manageable, and can be planned for adequately for elementary to return 4 days a week, allow us to do what we know is best for our students by making them half/shortened-days so our students can make the needed adjustments and not be stuck at a desk 4 days a week for 6 hours a day. There are many benefits to a shortened day for young students, one of which would allow us to give the struggling students the extra time they need.

- Thank you,

- Constant change is stressful for parents, students and staff. There is a huge demand for virtual learning that hasn't been met. This seems like a rush to return to "normal" that isn't necessary. Where will everything be stored? I don't think the School Board realizes how stressful this is for teachers. As soon as one pattern is established, it's changed. We've already reconfigured our student populations repeatedly, are being asked to do extra paperwork and tons of time on screen. Those teaching from home have limited access to their classrooms and support systems. Are you listening to everybody or to just a few very vocal people?

- We need to follow CDC guidelines of distancing not ignore them. I would have 24 kids in my class with 2 feet distancing- not acceptable.

- Reconfiguration with 11 weeks of school left should be off the table.

- So we need to finish the year with hybrid and plan well for next school year.

- I don’t feel ANOTHER change would be best for the children, and this decision shouldn’t be made for the convenience of adults. In these stressful times, the best thing we can provide for the children is structure and consistency.

- I have a very small room, and a very big class. There is no way to keep them even 3 feet apart if they are all in class at one time. It wouldn’t be equitable for some classes to come back and others not, or for some campuses to open more while others can’t.

- How about we continue to improve what we already have in place and are providing for our kids, and make a Thoughtful plan for how to come back strong in August? As professionals, we have already done too much "getting through this" or "making it work." It’s time to be proactive and intentional toward real goals.

- Following all CDC guidelines is important for the safety of our community. There may be a few classrooms in the district with the room and fewer students which would be able to follow the guidelines, but the majority can not safely return.

- There is absolutely no way I can fit all my kids in my classroom and social distance at the same time. I want to reopen to 4 days a week once the social distance protocol has lifted.
Questions to consider:

1) Will kindergarten aides be reinstated with full class sizes? They are a huge component to kindergarten learning and would help lessen the learning gaps that have been created by Distance and Hybrid learning. Additionally, they will help to properly carry out the health and safety regulations.

2) How will teachers be compensated for reconfiguring once again for another model of learning. I can't wait to go back to 4 days per week, but it will once again require extended time to plan past my contract hours.

3) When kindergarten students are placed in a classroom at 20-25 students 4 feet apart, has it been considered what this will do to our best teaching practices? I worry students will only have one place to sit and learn (currently I have a floor seating and desk seating), students will not be able successfully see resources or focused teaching location due to desks needed to be 4 ft apart, no small group learning will occur with all students because of space and class size, etc.

I ask that the board carefully considers their decisions when planning a 4 day school day. Best teaching practices and realistic expectations need to be determined and discussed with teachers at length. When you are the teacher actually implementing "the plan," there are many components non-teachers may not even consider.

March 22 and 29th would not allow enough planning time before the reopening of four days a week. April 12th is best because it's a full week and allows a solid month of planning without making teacher plan over their break. We need our break!!!!!!!!!

Teachers need time to get organized and not be expected to do this over a much needed break. Also, our students do not have stamina after being away from traditional school for an entire year. I think coming back to a 3 day week, and then a 4 day week would be beneficial to our students.

Do I press send? The district just sent a survey to teachers asking us what day we want to start back to four days...

I have never felt so undervalued, disrespected, and plain jerked around in my 20 years of teaching as I have this past year by this school district. I’ve worked harder this past year to meet every pivot with fidelity, professionalism, integrity, and a smile on my face, but I am absolutely about to break and am questioning my decision to leave the organized Elk Grove Unified School District to work here. Speaking not only as a teacher, but as a parent, changing to yet another plan at this point in the school year is unbelievable. As parents and staff, we have told you countless times that the constant changing and last-minute decisions have been the greatest areas of frustration and difficulty. I want all my students back in class and I want my own children in school more, but I don’t see how that is going to be possible while still following CDC guidelines to keep us safe. I have a larger room on my campus and it would be virtually impossible to fit my entire class in there with appropriate spacing. The numbers might look good on paper, but how are the students supposed to see the board if they are across the room facing the same wall the board is on. For most of the day, the light coming in my window puts such a horrible glare on my SmartBoard that a good quarter of my room is unable to even see the screen. Those two factors equate to about eight of my 26 students not being able to see my instruction. How am I supposed to effectively
teach students who can’t even see what I’m doing? Additionally, I have a student who utilizes a wheelchair full-time. He will not be able to get his chair around the classroom with that many desks spread out the way the CDC requires. Am I supposed to stick him in the corner because of his physical handicap and your decision? He doesn’t like being in the back corner by the doors; he likes to be up front so he can see.

To make the numbers work within the walls of my classroom would mean reconfiguring and completely upsetting my class yet again this year. Families and students would have to get to know a third teacher within one year. This group of kids also had several teachers in first grade and third grade, so they need consistency.

Being in school is vitally important... I’m a passionate teacher... Clearly I know this better than anyone! My reservation lies in my confidence in our school district to have things in place the way they are supposed to be. Time and time again over the last year, we have all been forced to pivot at a moment’s notice. Every time we get into a working rhythm and things are going in the right direction, you pull the rug out from under us again. Why not let us continue with what is working right now and start fresh with a solid, well thought out, and responsibly prepared plan for the start of next school year.

I wrote this on Friday and slept on it before sending. My only hesitation was because of my own daughter being in eighth grade this year. I want her to have dances. I want her to have a graduation. But those are selfish reasons. I need to do what is right and stand up for my students, their families, my colleagues, our community, and even myself, for once.

- Switching again at this late date is disruptive to kids. It will take them a few weeks to adjust and then school is almost over. In addition there is not enough room in the classrooms for 21 kids at 4 ft. apart. It is best to wait until the start of next year!
Employee Survey March 2021 - Certificated Employees - Secondary

Pending Board approval, the next step in our Phased Reopening of Schools Plan will be to increase in-person learning time from 2 days a week to 4 days a week for students in the hybrid model. Please mark the date that you prefer to begin 4 days a week of in-person learning.

97 responses

- This will only increase our case numbers in the county. We're finally getting things back under control. This is a bad idea.
- I think if your child plays sports they should be back in school 4 days a week.
- I do not have the needed space to accommodate all hybrid students in my classroom and maintain the required distance
- We are already allowing many students to return 4 days a week at Amador. I already have 14 student in my first period cohort 2 class. If all 25 students come back that period I will not be able to maintain the 4 feet distance mandated by the state.
- Students need to be back to school to be ready for next school year!
- These kids NEED to be on campus as much as possible. It is potentially safer for them on campus than not. I feel our site does an amazing job of keeping everyone safe and healthy.
- I think that none of those dates give us the proper time to plan and prepare for students coming back to almost full time. We want our students back but we are already struggling with kids keeping masks on properly and staying socially distanced. How does this affect transportation and trying to fit these students on the busses? We are also bound by the CDPH guidelines and unless we have a solid plan I don't feel like we can bring these students onto campus altogether, safely and follow the guidelines. Please give us time to plan and do this the right way.
I believe that we need more time to prepare in order to ensure safety for all students and staff. I advocate for a return to 4 days per week, with 4 full weeks to prepare, no sooner than April 19th. I do want to go back four days a week, but I only want to go back four days a week if the "social distance" requirement is removed or reduced to 1-2 feet. I cannot fit all of my students in my room with social distancing, and I do not want to be liable for students getting sick or complaints about the lack of distance between desks. I also do not want to only invite certain students back four days a week. That will not work for me the way I am currently teaching, nor do I think it is fair. Until more details are disclosed regarding HOW we can go back in a safe manner, I cannot pick a date. Lets get back to School! We are still in a PANDEMIC. Not enough time to plan. I want students back full time it's what best for their mental health and educational success. I just want the ability to plan accordingly for my site to be ready and prepared for this exciting move. I am all for students back on campus and I think all students should be on campus (no distance learning option). With that said, teachers need details of what this looks like to see if it is a viable option. For example, do we still need social distancing?

The majority of my distance learners do not attend virtual class and many of them do not do work. The overwhelming majority of my students that are failing are the distance learners because they do not stream class and/or do not do work. This model is failing most distance learners and I do not think it should be an option to DL. It is my opinion that if a student does not want to come on campus, they should find a home school option. Or, if we continue with distance learners, then if a student does not stream class they should be marked absent. If we start on a week that there is no school on a Monday or a Friday half of the students are affected and won't be on campus that day. (the same group of students would miss Monday and Friday). Not enough time for sufficient planning. I believe students should be back on campus as much as possible. However, I have witnessed the toll each change has taken on students and families. Time to adequately plan and communicate updates is in students’ social-emotional best interest. If we increase the number of students in the culinary room we will no longer be able to cook due to the increase number of students we will no longer be able to maintain a safe distance between students while cooking due to having to use the kitchen areas for student desk.

I'm all for kids being back ASAP! I think Monday right after Spring Break is too soon and starting back on a week where one group of kids does not have school, (ie. Monday and Friday off) greatly affects students access to school/assignments. Is this plan approved with County Health Officer and our JPA insurance since students will not be social distancing like they do now? Also, continuing to offer DL is challenging as most DL students are not engaging or completing
assignments. It is also extremely challenging tending to students in class and online efficiently in this model.

- What are our guidelines for social distancing and class sizes? In order to have social distancing of 6 feet I cannot accommodate more than 14 students. This plan would create classes larger than that size. Before the board approves this plan, how many students will be able to fit in a standard size classroom? How close can we be to one another? (minimum space required) (What does Dr. Kerr say?)
- I would like to see us go in phases, having elementary students transition to 4 days per week for 2-4 weeks prior to moving secondary to that schedule.
- I am MORE than willing to come back with HYBRID 4 days IF you will release the Distance Learners to another PLAN! It is extremely difficult to manage BOTH Hybrid and DLs. If you increase Hybrid students AND days, I have to vote NO to keep my emotional well being and sanity in tact. What kind of teacher do you want me to be? Effective? Then you have to create another plan for the DLs. It is just too much and too hard to manage both. Please believe me!
- Students, parents and staff have been through so many changes this year. Adding another change will create stress and lost time as we try to adjust. Students are not following the Covid guidelines now. I don't see this getting any better as we move to having more students on campus. They do not stay the recommended distance from each other and many struggle with wearing masks properly. While many staff have had the vaccine, students have not. Nor have many community members. I worry that moving too quickly to have kids back in school full time, when we are already back in school person to person when other districts are not, will cause another escalation in Covid cases in the community. As a science teacher, I also do not have the supplies to provide each student with lab equipment, so labs would become demonstrations only with students sitting at their tables doing work on computers or paper on their own. Right now I have enough supplies to let them do labs. If we move to more than 16 students in a class, that will no longer be the case. They still cannot share materials. I understand that everyone wants to go back to 'normal', but doing so puts everyone in school and in the community at risk.
- I don't feel safe to have close to 30 students in a classroom per period.
- I don't feel it's right to abandon the DL kids, that's going to put things really out of balance. If we do away with DL and make them all come back so I don't have to teach watered-down lessons to kids at home, I support that.
- There are a lot of logistics to figure out. For example, what if a classroom doesn't allow for the 4.5 foot spacing of students per the MOU? Do sites need to reconfigure? Again?
- Negotiations will likely make doing this quickly a challenge.
- Not possible to maintain distancing requirements
- We need to finish the year strong in the current program we have. Another change at this point in the year will disrupt the momentum and progress we have made under the current conditions. Let us finish what we have started and develop a solid plan for full return in the fall.
The schools still don’t have enough maintenance workers and subs for teachers. Classrooms can't hold both cohorts and keep MOU of 4.5 ft apart. It would not be appropriate to change schedules on families again for such a short time. Social and emotional well-being of students will not improve but be impacted again. Those that want to be at school are at school. Maybe grade levels are treated differently, they are not all alike.

All sources are cited at the bottom

It is important to remember that our students are our main stakeholders and they are the people we are here to serve. We now have a greater understanding about the dangers of Coronavirus and the risk that we can undertake each day of our lives, but like all other illnesses, we must now begin risk assessment. For our youth, the statistics are pretty clear. for the age group of 0-17 years of age, our students stand a greater risk of dying from pneumonia than COVID. In fact, influenza has a similar death rate in this age group as COVID, but this is not the are of contention I wish to focus on.

NUMBERS DON’T LIE: Before COVID in 2015, the suicide rate for teens (15-19) was higher than COVID ever was for the same age group. In 2015, there were 1,537 suicides among males and 524 among females aged 15–19 years. (CDC-Quickstats) Currently, in 2020/2021, there has only been a grand total of 208 total deaths from COVID-19, aged 0-19. (CDC-COVID Weekly). When the risk of suicide has always been 8-11 times more deadly than Coronavirus, we must take a strong look at risk assessment for the youth.

Please recall that this suicide rate is from 2015. There are no final estimates from 2020, but it is thought to have had a sharp increase from an already high rate, in comparison to COVID-19.

World renowned Psychologist, Erik Ericsson distilled the main developmental areas of Social-Emotional Growth. These stages of child and adolescent growth are perhaps the most critical in the development and well being of our children.

4. Industry Versus Inferiority (Competence) Erikson believes that the fourth psychosocial crisis is handled, for better or worse, during what he calls the “school age,” presumably up to and possibly including some of junior high school. Here the child learns to master the more formal skills of life: (1) relating with peers according to rules (2) progressing from free play to play that may be elaborately structured by rules and may demand formal teamwork, such as baseball and (3) mastering social studies, reading, arithmetic. Homework is a necessity, and the need for self-discipline increases yearly. The child who, because of his successive and successful resolutions of earlier psychosocial crisis, is trusting, autonomous, and full of initiative will learn easily enough to be industrious. However, the mistrusting child will doubt the future. The shame – and guilt-filled child will experience defeat and inferiority.

5. Learning Identity Versus Identity Diffusion (Fidelity) During the fifth psychosocial crisis (adolescence, from about 13 or 14 to about 20) the child, now an adolescent, learns how to answer satisfactorily and happily the question of “Who am I?” But even the best — adjusted of adolescents experiences some role identity diffusion: most boys and probably most girls experiment with minor delinquency; rebellion flourishes; self — doubts flood the youngster, and so on. Erikson believes that during successful early adolescence, mature time perspective is developed; the young person acquires self-certainty as opposed to self-consciousness and self-doubt. He comes to experiment with different — usually constructive — roles rather than adopting a “negative identity” (such as delinquency). He actually anticipates achievement, and achieves, rather than being “paralyzed” by feelings of inferiority or by an inadequate time perspective. In later adolescence, clear sexual identity — manhood or womanhood — is
established. The adolescent seeks leadership (someone to inspire him), and gradually develops a set of ideals (socially congruent and desirable, in the case of the successful adolescent). Erikson believes that, in our culture, adolescence affords a “psychosocial moratorium,” particularly for middle- and upper-class American children. They do not yet have to “play for keeps,” but can experiment, trying various roles, and thus hopefully find the one most suitable for them.

6. Learning Intimacy Versus Isolation (Love) The successful young adult, for the first time, can experience true intimacy – the sort of intimacy that makes possible good marriage or a genuine and enduring friendship.

Yes, this does not take into account consideration for state guidelines and restrictions that would make re-opening a logistical nightmare, but the conversation needs to move from a low-risk virus to high-risk, long term permanent damage. The risk for youth is also very different than the risk of our teachers/staff, but knowing this, rather than focus all our energy on student PPE and guidelines, we should be adopting policies that best protect our older staff members. Being in a school district as an employee means that you likely joined because you want to serve. Serve our students our youth, and our community. We didn't take the job for the pay, and we certainly did not do it for glory.

Remember this when you are attempting to create policy and guidelines. We got into this business to teach, mold, shape, and ultimately, make the lives of our students better. Each day we hold these students back, we risk more learning loss, cutting, self-harm, domestic violence/abuse, and suicide. To the teachers that think they are saving the lives of your students, “Is this concern really for them, or yourself?” It is ok to fear this virus as an adult, it poses a greater risk to adults aged 30 and above, but as servants to our students, is it worth putting them at greater risk to save ourselves? We have undergone a year long experiment with this style of education, and we have seen more harm done to youth in this nation than COVID-19. It is now time to phase a re-opening, and reassess who it is we need to expend resources on for PPE, distancing, sanitization, and exposure.

P.S. Almost every teacher knows, just because they are supposed to be distant and masked on campus, doesn't mean they still don't hangout, mask less, and in large groups. Let's also not forget, a majority of these students have a 2 day school week. If you are unsure of what this is in reference to, I encourage you to ask, what they do on the days they are not physically in school.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6630a6.htm
https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/child-development/erickson/#gs.udadn2

- Still unsafe to do so
- Please open the schools to 4 days a week.
- I am eager to get my students back in the classroom more days per week as they are only getting one lesson per week at the jr high. However, I do have some concerns, Will social distancing still be possible, I have one class of 34 and there is no way they will all fit in the class with even 4 feet apart. Also, I humbly ask you to think about giving us time to readjust once again. This is our 5th change this school year and we have overwhelmed teachers in tears at school almost daily. It feels like we finally get somewhat comfortable and then are expected to change again. This has been the most stressful year of teaching ever. I hope we can at least have time to prepare this time to change all our lesson plans which may take a couple of weeks.
No plans

I think it is exceedingly unwise at this time to double the amount of time in class for students and staff alike.

Top Concern: Will full time distance learning students be allowed to return to hybrid if we go to 4 days a week? This will most definitely effect our class sizes.
Second Concern: For lab classes, can you be more specific with the guidelines? Please speak about the distance students must be apart (AT ALL TIMES) and the sharing or lab equipment (if sanitizing equipment between use is adequate or if disposable gloves are needed). Can you confirm these expectations and guidelines with Dr. Kerr.

According to the CDE Stronger Together: Career Technical Education webpage
https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/sandtinstcareertechedu.asp For a safe reopening CTE programs should review the health and safety guidance and checklist as well as guidance for other work sectors that the student may be working in.

Below is the OSHA - COVID19 Restaurants Checklist:
On Page 3 of the OSHA - COVID19 document it states:
"Ensure workers maintain six feet of distance from others whenever possible. When not possible, ensure the length and frequency of interaction is kept to a minimum. Offer secondary barriers, such as face shields, to workers, and allow workers to use their own if they prefer."

Currently, in my culinary class, the safety procedure I found for my classroom setup is conducting demonstrations for my students. I guess until guidelines change, I will continue to do demos with the students unless I see specific written guidance from the county PH allowing the kids to cook.

I bring this up because currently, it is not practicable for students to remain a minimum of 4.5 ft away from each other at all times... but I have heard of other lab based classes within the district are completing labs. I also understand that the configuration of my room is unique and we have to do what works for our situation. To my knowledge, nothing has really changed since November as for lab guidelines. Are these classes completely labs safely?? Are they in compliance of CDC/PH guidelines?? I do not want to be liable for putting students at risk.

Lastly, it would be wonderful to finish the 4th quarter strong and keep some consistency. I would love to start in the fall FULL TIME.

I can be supportive of returning to a full-time schedule, but the lack of communication with union leadership regarding this step is demoralizing, demonstrating a lack of faith. We are the ones working *every day* to implement the "how's." That being said...Please wait until April to make any changes. Teachers need time to rearrange lesson plans, seating charts, and modalities (for the fourth time in a year). Administrators need time to adjust class rosters. Please be honest with parents and the community that social distancing will practically not occur (it is, in large part, not happening now), and that mask usage - covering nose and mouth - is not optional.

Please listen to the concerns that will be brought up by both unions and act accordingly. These concerns are legitimate, having to do with safety and equity. A new MOU should be in place before moving forward.
• Untill more of our community has been vaccinated, I feel it is too unsafe to have students attending 4 days a week. Students have been becoming more lax about distancing and wearing their masks appropriately. Also, as the weather heats up, students will be more likely to want to remove masks when it is not appropriate. It is a mistake to begin acting like the pandemic is over, when a fourth wave is likely soon.

• We do not need another upheaval to staff, students, parents or programs. This is beyond what the state is just now asking schools to do. Instead of implementing ANOTHER change, which will be far more disruptive than beneficial at this point in the school year, why not focus on next year and creating a solid, well thought out, collaborative plan to bring our students back. In addition, moving to a broader reopening plan without all parties in agreement, and part of the discussion, goes against the MOU. The MOU the board agreed to abide by. That would not only be disrespectful to all involved, it would be a breach of contract, and in no way show good faith, or a team approach. It would only create a deeper divide between the board and staff.

• I think it just more unnecessary change. My kids HATE going 2 days a week right now.

• This is a difficult adjustment, but the sooner its done the quicker we will recover.

• The spread of the Covid variants will continue until most of the adult State's population is vaccinated. As a district, we must look at the risks of opening schools to too many students at once. Some of these new variants are more contagious, and it looks as if students are not doing a great job right now following safety and social distancing protocols. Is the district willing and ready to take on this supervisory challenge, and how will the district be held accountable?

• 1) The DO and the Board should consider DISCUSSING a reopening date before DECIDING on one.

  2) As long as some students remain on DL, there is no point in introducing additional risk to students and District employees by returning to 4 days per week of in-person instruction. As long as some students remain on DL, teachers will be required to basically just teach DL from their desks at school, and neither students nor teachers will benefit.

  3) If the District wanted to do this right, it should start with the TK-2nd or 3rd grade first, and phase in in-person learning, possibly leaving secondary or 9-12 on hybrid for the balance of the school year.

• It feels useless to do this survey when we all know the board will decide whatever they want, so we might as well accept defeat now. Going forward, please do not lie to the teachers that our rooms will be disinfected between classes, and do not give the community a false sense of safety for their children when what is said in a board meeting is not what is happening on all campuses unless the teachers and site administration make it happen.

• As a PE teacher at JJHS we need access to the upper field with double the kids on campus
Employee Survey March 2021 - Classified Employees

Pending Board approval, the next step in our Phased Reopening of Schools Plan will be to increase in-person learning time from 2 days a week to 4 days a week for students in the hybrid model. Please mark the date that you prefer to begin 4 days a week of in-person learning.

95 responses

Please add any comments you would like to share with the Board of Trustees on this topic.

47 responses

- Give our sites time to adjust the classrooms - not just one week.
- I think this would be so great for the students and teachers.
- Keep the district/county office closed to the public at least until the end of June 2021.
- it is imperative that these kids get back on campus the sooner the better
- We just got used to this and things are going well, why change it now? We offer more time to students who need it anyway.
- I feel that another change at this late stage in the school year would just upset the flow for all involved. Why not just complete the school year, as is and leave the transitions until the new school year. How is the increased number of students on campus going to be addressed in regards to safety protocols and social distancing?
- We need time to prepare. Please don't push this through too quickly.
- Students need to be back in school 100%
- We need to remain Hybrid until next school year.
- I think we should ride it out and hope to start in full in August
- You need to make a freeze on kids moving from DL to Hybrid.
- I feel we should just do what we are doing for now and re-open in August
• Another change this late in the school year is bound to cause more stress on employees and students than is already taking place. It feels as if every time we start getting into a routine and finding some sort of consistency we are thrown a curveball. I also believe it would be unfair to all employees to try to be ready for this change before the end of March. Teachers and staff deserve a stress free and duty free spring break. With such a short amount of time left in the school year students and staff would benefit from keeping on the track we are on now, finish the school year and be prepared to make adjustments for the following year.

• I don't feel we are ready to reopen schools to that degree for every grade level. We still are short staffed. Keeping the students socially distanced is already incredibly difficult. With more students on campus, and not anymore staff .... I just don't know how to logistically keep the kids safe and follow protocol. I feel the board thinks that the pandemic is over, when it clearly is not! I don't live my life making fear based decisions. I follow the science. Our first priority should be keeping students and staff safe. period

• With the majority of staff being vaccinated I think returning to 4 days a week is absolutely needed. If we don't figure a way out to get back to somewhat normal now, we may never.

• Are we going to let students change their distant learning to hybrid?

• We all want the kids back in school but please don't rush into this.

• I feel that this is not going to work for the elementary schools especially at the site I work at because there is not enough space in the classrooms to space the kids for social distancing.

• We are still in a pandemic, we cannot space students safely. We need to wait until more of our population get vaccinated.

• I am ok with Go back four days a week, on a side note My Junior high and high school students are worried that going back 4 days a week teachers will add more work to them when they are already stressed out and overwhelmed now. So if we could go back 4 days a week to get children adjusted back to more days with the same work load then I am 100% for it.

• We have had students here full time already since June in ELP and we have not had any issues. So if we can be successful then why can not the rest as long as everyone does the right things. So far hybrid has worked the students go there then those who are in Elp stay. In my opinion we can return to full time, the students need it.

• We are unable to guarantee safety for all

• Why is the substitute pool for custodians/maintenance practically non-existent? Some of us are extremely burned out and desperately need time off!

• As a staff member AND a parent, I IMPLORE you to keep hybrid THROUGH the end of the school year. Begin in-person in August when parents and (hopefully many) students are vaccinated! It is IRRESPONSIBLE, FOOLISH and downright CRIMINAL of you to vote otherwise. If only ACUSD board members made decisions based on SCIENCE versus what their Karen-neighbors bitch to them about cheer, after church, Amador would be a better place.

• Please send our students back 4 days!!!!!!
There aren't enough buses to increase the loads too much. Unless the Health dept changes the recommendations.

There needs to be time to prepare the classrooms and campus's. Starting the day we get back from a week off does not seem feasible. Next week needs to be focused on getting students grades in as it is the end of the quarter. This is typically when late work is turned in so teachers are extremely busy with grading, which would not give time to preparing classrooms.

Students are so burnt out and suffering emotionally and academically. SCP is already successfully doing 4 days for many students. Cannot wait to offer full days to all, and please continue a DL option for those that want it—there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We are ready for this! Preschool and ELP have been in session on campus 5 days a week since August. It’s time for everyone else to be on campus full time. If a phased approach is desired at least get the elementary schools on campus full time - they NEED it! We are failing our students by keeping them away! 2 days a week on campus is not enough! It is safe for all - get the kids back on campus full time!

Get the kids back in school!

Please keep bus drivers in mind when making these decisions. ~ 14 big bus routes with limited capacity means we can only transport ~ 322 students in the morning because we pick up K-12

It would be nice to get an actual survey of students that actually ride the buses.

Keep up the good work

Schools should be open at least 4-5 days a week.

It is time for students to return and teachers get off their high horses! Our students need some normalcy and so do their parents. Teachers on my campus at least, already have relaxed on the distancing between students. I believe there is room at 4ft for students of record at this time to be able to fit in classrooms. Tables and other things may need to be removed. We have extra classrooms of DL teachers that can be used to store items. We can make it work. We might need a couple extra yard sups or IA's for coverage. We can do this! We should do this!

we should wait till the new year begins ad finish out this year as is this back and forth for the children and staff is very difficult as it is we have only 2 months left till end of the year.

I feel like our students have finally gotten into the swing of things, changing there schedules now so late in the school year does not seem right for students or parents. We will have to spend the next month just dealing with behavior changes and learning curves. Also some employees have not gotten the vaccine for personal reasons and I think that is still important to consider.

It has been hard enough, please don’t add another scenario for everyone to have to learn. Finish out the year on DL and hybrid and start the new school year just as before the pandemic.

WE NEED MORE PEOPLE. CURRENT STAFFING LEVELS ARE INADEQUATE.

Hi, I am [redacted], and I am the Cook Manager with Food Service at Ione Elementary. My co-worker and I are currently putting out 200 breakfasts and roughly 150 lunches in our 16 hrs. of daily labor with Wednesday's being our day to catch up or strive to get ahead of 350 meals per
day with individual items all being portioned in some way to go into a sack meal. Usually two bags, one for the hot part of the meal, the other for cold milk and fruit. My concern is that we are doing 1/2 of our enrolled students each day and running to keep up with our load. All meals are free for the remainder of the school year. Unless the social distancing requirements are changed, it is going to be very tricky for lone Elementary School to get roughly 550 meals served all in To-Go containers, handed out in time, and meeting the safe food temperatures required. Our kitchen is designed for bulk serving, and proper storage of foods will be difficult and nearly impossible with the potential volume that our school will bring us. If food service can go back to our old serving methods, Full Time Hybrid will be a great challenge, but reachable. Thank you for your time.

- It appears to be working pretty well as is. I think once more people get vaccinated parents and staff would feel safer with full opening of school
- more information needed as to how class sizes will be spaced out with all students returning to campus and how staff will address sanitizing the school sites and also how this will effect all food service sites with lunch serve out with the additional kids being on campus and spacing them out during lunch. All we hear is its about the kids well then lets make sure we have all our bases covered before we rush back to appease some of the parents and staff. safety should be the absolute first thing taken into consideration. 8 weeks left of this school year. why rush it now????????
- What you need to think about is transportation. We don't have enough drivers let alone enough buses. It seems that the decision is made without talking to the people that it will affect the most. There isn't enough maintenance employees to keep up with all the disinfecting and cleaning that needs to be done.
- Lets get these kids back to school ASAP
- I don't feel that we are ready for all students, most of the students do not take the social distancing or mask wearing seriously. If they are all here then everyone will have a higher risk of getting the virus.
- Lets finish up the 20/21 school year "as is" and bring everyone back in August.
- I feel that after the break we only have 52 days left and we still have people getting the virus so why not wait until the next school year. we don't have enough bussing or car accommodation for parents to pick there kids up.
- Having known 3 people, one a family member, who have died due to covid. Also, 4 employees at worksite that might have unknown lasting effects due to having covid since schools opened. Too roll the dice more, risking more peoples health and possibly lives, doesn't seem a safe, or healthy choice. If one person gets hurt, it's one too many. Some calm patience for just a couple more months, seems the wise decision. I Love this school district, and pray we all stay safe, patient, healthy and well.
- Getting all student desks back to full time statis in classrooms.