



July 2, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

REOPENING OF SCHOOL, AUGUST 2020:  
RESPONSE TO PEACEFUL PROTEST AT 217 REX AVENUE, JACKSON, CA 95642

As stated in Superintendent Amy Slavensky's message to the school community on June 26, 2020 (posted here <https://amadorcoe.org/superintendent-3/>), the ultimate goal is to return to "business as usual" on our school campuses. We also know from our County Public Health Officer Dr. Kerr that this is not possible right now. (You may go to <https://amadorcoe.org/minutes-agendas/> to access Dr. Kerr's report and Q&A presented to the ACUSD Board of Trustees on June 24, 2020.)

One may ask, why are some school districts fully opening their schools while others are not? This varies from state to state and county to county, and it depends on a variety of factors including but not limited to the approval of the local public health officer and the insurance carrier for the district. Dr. Kerr has informed the District she will review our plan to make sure it is consistent with state and county guidelines, especially related to physical distancing.

As a public school system that receives public funds to educate all students, ACUSD and ACOE are an arm of the state government and subject to many laws and regulations. Due to this and because public schools function *parentis in loco* (responsible for other people's children), ACUSD, ACOE and the Board of Trustees are held to a higher standard than most businesses and private/charter schools. This creates a need for more information, such as the final state budget and ongoing developments with the COVID19 pandemic. (To access an FAQ regarding the nature of guidelines and the implications for public schools, go to <https://amadorcoe.org/coronavirus-updates/>.)

Stakeholder committees are working to develop the best possible plan for August that will: (1) provide options for families to choose from, (2) allow the most amount of time possible on campus for students whose families want that, and (3) be safe and financially responsible. Two subcommittees (elementary and secondary), composed of parents and staff from the two original committees, are developing detailed hybrid plans and options for families.

By July 15, 2020, the subcommittees will submit their recommendations to Superintendent Amy Slavensky and her Cabinet who will review and prepare recommendations for consideration and action by the Board of Trustees on or before July 20, 2020.

At the same time, a variety of school and district teams are taking many steps to prepare and be ready for school in August. This includes acquiring signage and floor markers to assist with social distancing, purchasing masks and gloves for adults and older students, deep cleaning, preparing written guidance for staff and families, collaborating with labor leaders, and more. Families will be informed by a phone call, email, our public webpage and our social media by July 20, 2020 of the plan for school in August, allowing 3.5 weeks before school begins to prepare or make adjustments.

We ask that you continue to work with us, be as patient as possible, and believe with us that we will be able to open school with options for families so everyone is safe and students are learning. We very much appreciate your understanding and continued support.