



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Staff Recommendation for Reopening Schools Model

When LA County is in Tier 2 (Red)

December 17, 2020



Clarification of Tiers

- Tier 1 (Purple) - **CURRENT TIER**
 - Cases per 100K greater than 7.0
 - School activities/programs permitted:
 - *Special education assessment & services (we began in Oct. & cont. to move forward); English learners (we began Nov.); athletic conditioning (we began early Nov.); childcare hubs (we began mid-Nov.); TK-2 waivers (we have applied & are awaiting approval from county)*
- County's current case rate: ~~26.9~~ **42.2** per 100K
 - *If* everyone follows the health protocols (wearing masks, not mixing with other households, staying home as much as possible), LA County **estimates** that we could possibly move to Tier 2 by February or March.
- Tier 2 (Red)
 - Cases 7.0 or fewer per 100K for more than two consecutive weeks
 - Schools can reopen after county has been in Tier 2 for 2 consecutive weeks (following 6' physical distancing protocols)



How do the Different Models Address/Support Educational Interest(s)?

- Social-emotional connections on campus
- Maintaining connection to classmates, staff, and school community
- Continuity of academic support and instruction
- Health and safety precautions during the pandemic
- Childcare and supervision

Traditional Hybrid Model



AND



Traditional Hybrid (In-Class AND Online Learning)

Students divided into two cohorts. Variations include:

- Alternating days: 'A' in-person two or three days per week & asynchronous distance learning remaining days; vice versa for 'B.'
- Alternating weeks: 'A' in-person one week & asynchronous distance learning the next; vice versa for 'B.'
- Alternating AM/PM: 'A' in-person in morning & asynchronous distance learning in afternoon; 'B' in-person in afternoon & asynchronous distance learning in morning.

Third cohort: Students & families have an option to take part in online-only instruction.

- Every effort will be made to create “new classes” & have instruction provided by SMMUSD teachers, as it is being done now in the fall. We cannot guarantee students would remain with their current teacher under this model until numbers of students are ascertained.



Hybrid Enhanced w/ Technology Model



AND



Tech-Enhanced Hybrid (In-Class AND Online Learning)

Students divided into two cohorts. Variations include:

- Alternating days: 'A' in-person two or three days per week & synchronous distance learning w/ same teacher remaining days; vice versa for 'B.'
- Alternating weeks: 'A' in-person one week & synchronous distance learning with same teacher the next; vice versa for 'B.'
- Alternating AM/PM: 'A' in-person in morning & synchronous distance learning with same teacher in afternoon; vice versa for 'B.'

Third cohort: Students & families have an option to take part in online-only instruction.

- Would be attending class with same teacher as other cohorts, just synchronously online.

Note: It is possible under this model that the teacher may be providing instruction via a digital platform, while an instructional aide supervises the in-person cohort.



Distance Learning + Approved School Activities



AND



Distance Learning + Approved School Activities (SECONDARY)

Distance Learning+ is a continuation of how students have been receiving their instruction this fall. Students would stay in the same classroom/classes with the same teacher(s). The “Plus” aspect would be the addition of in-person activities. At the secondary level, it could be:

- Support activities for students who are falling behind from an academic and/or social emotional aspect
- Athletics, art/music/drama
- Enrichment activities (i.e., clubs)
- In-person learning activities coordinated by departments and school site (i.e., grade-level or content-area activities and projects, flex activities)
- Supervised by teachers and/or other school staff
- Designed and coordinated by SMMUSD staff and implemented with all required safety protocols



Distance Learning + Approved School Activities



AND



Distance Learning + Approved School Activities (ELEMENTARY)

Core content workshops (math & literacy lessons) remain synchronous in AM, five days a week, with minimal adjustments to current Distance Learning schedules

In order to address social-emotional needs, asynchronous blocks after lunch would have a rotation of students on campus for some combination per site of:

- Social emotional learning
- Outdoor fitness activity
- Labs
- Hands-on project block
- Interventions
- Accelerated learning activities

Every student has in-person learning time for some combination of the on-campus activities listed above on a weekly basis with a classroom teacher and half of their current classmates.

Additional specialists (music, art, drama, physical activities) might be added.



Community Engagement in October

Dr. Drati met with these stakeholders groups to present the reopening models and receive feedback.

Health & Safety District Advisory Committee (DAC)

Board-appointed committee comprised of parents, staff, & community members with a focus on the health & safety of all SMMUSD students

Special Education District Advisory Committee (DAC)

Board-appointed committee comprised of parents, staff, & community members with a focus on the needs of SMMUSD students with special needs & their families

LCAP Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Comprised of SMMUSD parents, including those of specific student populations (socio-economic disadvantaged, English learner, foster youth, homeless, African American, & Latinx)

Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council

Association of PTAs (comprised of executive council officers & unit presidents) with a focus making every student's potential a reality by engaging & empowering families & communities to advocate for all children

Town Hall Meetings Open to the Public

Webinars open to the public: one with an elementary school focus, one with a secondary school focus

SMMCTA (teacher's union) & SEIU (classified staff union)

Negotiations teams comprised of union leaders chosen by their unit membership as the voice of those employee groups

Student Body Leadership

ASB leadership & Student Board Members from each high school representing student body voices

District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC)

State-mandated committee comprised of parents of English learners

Superintendent's Reports

Additionally, Dr. Drati has given a COVID-19 update during his reports at board meetings since early September.





Community Engagement in November

- Principals met with staff & parents.
 - Explained what reopening models would look like at their specific site
 - Shared feedback from these meetings with Dr. Drati
- Dr. Drati held meetings with principals, teachers, and parents -- representatives from:
 - Site Leadership Teams (SLTs) & Faculty Advisory Committees (FACs) from each site
 - School Site Council (SSCs) & PTA leadership from each site
 - DELAC, SEDAC, & PTA Council
 - Divided into secondary & elementary school
 - Follow-up w/ same groups next week
- Nov. 19 discussion item during public board meeting
- Survey sent to all staff, parents, & secondary students



Assumptions about Safety Protocols

Conversations have taken and continue to take place to develop safety protocols that meet LA County DPH requirements. **NO** reopening model will be adopted without appropriate safety protocols being in place. For purposes of this discussion, we ask that the discussion of safety protocols be bifurcated. Assumptions about safety protocols include:

- LA County positivity rates and number of cases will be at levels that allow for in-person instruction (the county will have to approve districts to open)
- Our district has approved MOUs with SMMCTA and SEIU that include a commitment by our district to implement the LADPH safety protocols.
- SMMUSD safety protocols will:
 - Assure that all staff can perform their jobs within appropriate health and safety expectations
 - Identify who will be responsible at the district and site levels to ensure safety protocols are being maintained
 - Determine how quickly safety needs and concerns will be addressed
 - Address the process for quickly troubleshooting/fixing equipment and breaches in the safety protocols
 - Address personal protective equipment (PPE) and what PPE will be providing to individual classrooms to address safety concerns.



Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the SMMUSD Board of Education adopt the Distance Learning Plus Model as the schools reopening model for when LA County is in Tier 2 (red).



Rationale

Best model that meets the interest of addressing the needs of:

- Social-emotional connections on campus
- Maintaining connection to classmates, staff, and school community
- Continuity of academic support and instruction
- Health and safety precautions during the pandemic



Questions?