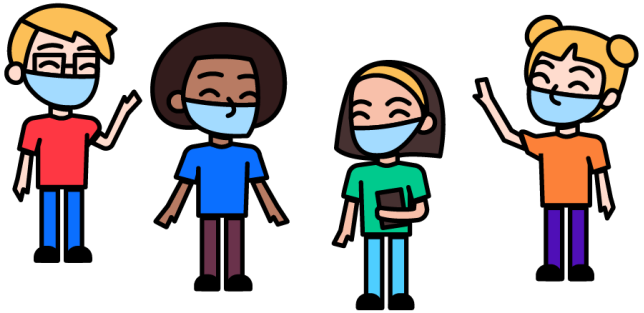


Turlock Unified School District

Small Learning Cohort Plan

Providing In-Person Learning for Students with Acute Needs

September 15, 2020, Board of Trustees Meeting

TUSD
Turlock Unified School District

Small Learning Cohort Guidance

- California Department of Public Health has provided the following guidance for:
  - Small groups or “cohorts” of children/youth
  - Controlled, supervised indoor environments
  - Operated by various entities, including school districts
  - Specific in school setting to students with “acute needs”

CDPH
California Department Of
PublicHealth

Definitions

Cohort

Stable group of no more than 14 children/youth & supervising adults. Configuration may vary with no more than 16 total individuals.

Supervising Adult

Adult assigned to one cohort of children/youth who does not physically interact with other cohorts.

Supervised Care Environment

Environment where multiple children/youth are supervised simultaneously by an adult in various settings, including a school site.

Considerations for Cohorts

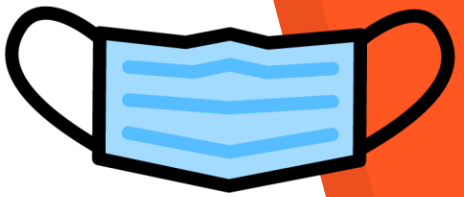
- Maintain small groups to minimize the number of people exposed if COVID-19 is identified in student, staff, or support provider of a specific cohort.
- Avoid moving students from one cohort to another.
- Separate cohorts for special activities such as art, music, and PE.
- Allow one-to-one specialized services by support service provider who is not part of the cohort to include but not limit to occupational therapy, speech and language, and other educational support services as part of targeted intervention strategy.

Considerations for Staff

- Assign supervising adults to one cohort unless serving children under five years of age which provides for assignment to no more than two cohorts.
- Avoid changing assignments to the extent practicable.
- Schedule substitutes to only one cohort of students per day.
- Maintain all TUSD health and safety protocols including use of face coverings, following social distancing of six feet, and scheduling meetings between cohorts remotely, outdoors, or in a large room.

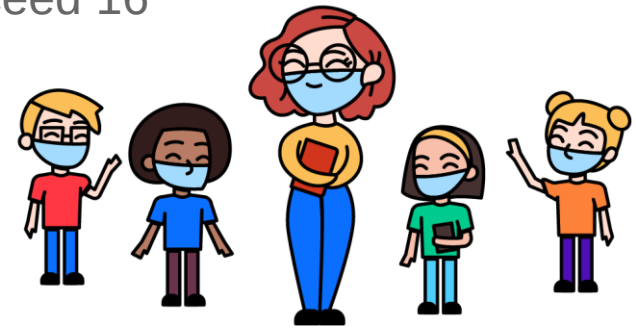
Precautions & Considerations

- Maintain physical distancing between adults as much as possible.
- Arrange physical distancing between students in a manner balanced with the developmental and social-emotional needs of the age group.
- Adults and students must wear face coverings at all times as required by CDPH guidance.
- Adhere to all health and safety protocols provided in the TUSD Safe Schools TK-6 Reopening Plan.



Initial Small Learning Cohort Program Model

- 8 Mild/Moderate elementary classrooms
  - Brown (3), Cunningham (2), Earl (3)
- Grades TK-6
- Teacher & Para-professional staffing
- Limited 1:1 Para-professional assignments
- Small learning cohorts do not exceed 16



Timeline

- ✓ Identify program for small learning cohort model based on student needs & program configuration.
- ✓ Consult with collective bargaining group leadership.
- ✓ Communicate with school principals, staff, & support staff.
- ✓ Contact parents of identified program.
- ✓ Notify support services including transportation & child nutrition.
- ✓ Schedule program-wide and site-specific program staff meetings to elicit input.
- ✓ Visit school sites to review classrooms, restrooms, & cafeterias.
- ✓ Begin in-person learning on September 28, 2020.
- ✓ Provide program specialist & behaviorist support.
- ✓ Monitor progress daily.
- ✓ Replicate process systematically for additional small learning cohorts to support students with greatest or “acute” needs.

Questions?