

THE ADVOCATE

SAN DIEGO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

REOPENING AGREEMENT

NOT IMPACTED BY NEW STATE LAW

On March 5, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Assembly and Senate Bill 86, which incentivizes schools to reopen to in-person instruction even if the county remains in the purple tier.

The new law provides a total of \$2 billion in additional funding for districts that offer in-person instruction by April 1. The amount of funding a district receives decreases by 1-percent per day that in-person learning is not offered before being

completely phased out for districts not offering in-person instruction by May 15.

Districts in counties designated in the state's red tier must offer in-person instruction to all elementary students and at least one secondary grade level to receive the funds. The requirement lessens to only offering in-person instruction to grades K-2 if the county remains in the purple tier.

While the change in law is a departure from the state's previous COVID safety guidelines, it will not directly

impact San Diego Unified's reopening plan due to our [agreement](#) covering the path to safely restarting required unit member in-person instruction and services that was reached last month.

This agreement established the criteria that will be used to determine when it is safe to return to in-person instruction and is unchanged by the new law. The District's move to further in-person learning requires it follow a three-pillar approach of San Diego

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VACCINES ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE TO STOP COVID

To stop this pandemic, we need to use all our prevention tools. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent disease.

Vaccines work with your body's natural defenses so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth and staying at least six feet away from other people you don't live with, also helps stop the spread of COVID-19. Studies show

that COVID-19 vaccines are very effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. These vaccines cannot give you the disease itself.

The vaccines are safe. The U.S. vaccine safety system makes sure that all vaccines are as safe as possible. All the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the

same standards as any other vaccines produced through the years. The system in place across the entire country that allows the CDC to watch for safety issues and make sure the vaccines stay safe.

The vaccines may cause side effects in some people, like sore muscles, feeling tired, or mild fever. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. For most people, these side effects will last no longer than a day or two.

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LETTERS IN SOLIDARITY

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SDEA PRESIDENT



KYLE WEINBERG
SDEA VICE PRESIDENT

FINISHING SCHOOL YEAR IN HYBRID IS THE LEAST BAD OPTION

The pandemic has imposed many constraints on our lives. Doing our part to stop the spread of the virus and save lives has forced all of us to limit interactions with friends and loved ones. We have cancelled trips and missed graduations, weddings, and births.

As we begin to plan for a return to SDUSD campuses once the three pillars in our agreement with the District are met (all educators must have the opportunity to be fully vaccinated, San Diego County must be in the red tier or better, and strict health and safety protocols at school sites), the options for the Phase 2 instructional model are also constrained by factors in our schools and larger society that are beyond our control as educators.

Overcoming a multitude of challenging obstacles, we have found a way to build community this school year with the students that we serve. From trying new activities that nudged students into turning on their cameras to incorporating instructional technology that provided multiple pathways to accessing content and skills, we have figured out how to make it work and have developed strong relationships with students in the process because that is what we do as educators.

For potential in-person teaching and learning during this school year, it does not make sense to break up these classroom communities that we have cultivated. To provide continuity of instruction, we should not change students' teachers for what could be the last few weeks

of the school year. The best option for students whose families elect for them to stay online is to continue working with the teachers they have had all year. This will require some form of hybrid teaching (teachers with both online and in-person students on their rosters) as yet another emergency measure that we will have to withstand during this crisis as we attempt to meet the needs of our diverse student body.

There will continue to be families who are not comfortable sending their children back to campuses at this time, especially in communities that have been hardest hit by this deadly pandemic. San Diego Unified neighborhoods of Logan, South San Diego and Southeast San Diego have consistently had positive COVID rates three times higher than the rest of the county. It's important that we continue working with the District to ensure that students whose families elect for remote learning are not negatively impacted and are still provided with a high-quality education this year and next school year.

This is why SDEA is advocating for the District to start planning now on the implementation of a wide continuum of instructional programs for next school year that will allow educators to dedicate their full attention to either remote or in-person students, but not both. To learn more about how SDEA member leaders arrived at these conclusions, please watch our [Phase 2 Instructional Day Workgroup video](#).

KISHA BORDEN
SDEA PRESIDENT

KYLE WEINBERG
SDEA VICE PRESIDENT

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REOPENING AGREEMENT

County being designated in the red tier, educators having the ability to receive all necessary vaccine doses and reaching peak immunity, and on-site safety protocols in place to ensure our schools are safe for students and their families.

The new law will help SDUSD with a proportional amount of the increased funding once it is safe to return to in-person learning, but the District can't use it to return to worksites earlier since the law doesn't mandate districts across the state to do so.

San Diego County is projected to soon reenter the red tier, which hasn't happened since November, and vaccines became available to educators at the end of February, making it more likely that conditions will soon allow the District to invite students back to campus.

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VACCINES ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE TO STOP COVID

Even after you get your vaccine, you will need to keep wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth, washing your hands often, and staying at least six feet away from other people you do not live with. This gives you and others the best protection from catching the virus. Right now, experts don't know how long the vaccine will protect you, so it's a good idea to continue following the guidelines from CDC and your health department. We also know not everyone will be able to get vaccinated right away, so it's still important to protect yourself and others.

Adapted from CDC Materials



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For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406 (TTY). Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204
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SDEA MEMBERS GET VACCINATED!

1. Rene Zambrano, 2. Amy and Adam Goldstein, 3. Amy Childs, 4. Jacinda Dietz, 5. Corrie Gasper, 6. Whitney Chase, 7. Kisha Borden

VENTILATION IS KEY TO MITIGATE RISKS OF COVID

Just this month, the CDC updated its guidelines to reflect what scientists and air quality experts have been saying for quite some time — airborne transmission of COVID-19 can occur indoors with virus particles suspended in the air. Thanks to

SDEA members and the SDEA bargaining team raising the issue with UCSD and Scripps Institute scientists like Dr. Kimberly Prather, indoor air quality is a key area of focus in COVID-19 risk mitigation efforts in San Diego Unified.

Here are a few important air quality areas to become more familiar with.

AIR CHANGE RATE. WHAT IS IT? AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) defines Air Change Rate as the airflow in volume units per hour divided by the building space volume in identical volume units. A less technical definition? Replacing the air in a defined space with clean air. Air Change Rate is typically expressed in Air Changes per Hour (ACH). If the ACH in a classroom is 4, that means the air is being replaced with clean air every 15 minutes. ACH matters — especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic — because as the ACH increases, the likelihood of exposure to airborne viruses and other harmful pathogens decreases.

WHAT'S A "GOOD" ACH FOR SCHOOLS?

With ASHRAE's guidance in mind, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health suggests schools aim for four to six air changes per hour in typical classrooms. For schools struggling to meet that threshold, there are ways to boost the number of air changes.

HOW TO BOOST AIR CHANGES IN CLASSROOMS

Schools can increase air change rates by increasing outdoor ventilation via natural methods like opening doors and windows or mechanical means such as opening the dampers in the HVAC system.

If a school has an HVAC system, cleaning recirculated air may be achieved by installing a MERV-13 rated filter or higher on the HVAC system. ASHRAE recommends MERV-13 or higher for COVID-19 mitigation.

If increasing the outdoor air ventilation is a challenge, and the building can't install a MERV-13 rated filter or higher, ASHRAE recommends increasing the mechanical filtration to the maximum possible and supplementing with local or in-room HEPA filters to reach the ACH target.

Schools can also supplement existing methods for air changes by adding local HEPA air purifiers to remove airborne virus particles.



CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS
VEBA



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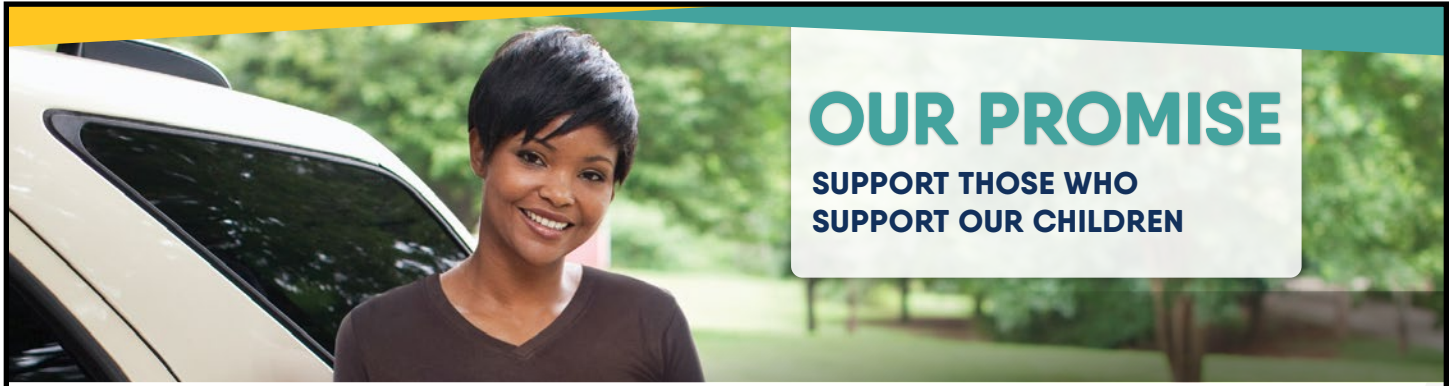
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Looking for the latest news on the COVID-19 vaccine? Check out the VEBA web page dedicated to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Stay up-to-date on news from your local public health department, VEBA carriers and local medical groups.

Visit [VEBAonline.com](https://vebaonline.com) and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccination Information" button.





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