



Back to School Plan

School Year 2020-2021

AUGUST 2020

Board of Education

Dr. Richard Vladovic, Board President

Dr. George J. McKenna III

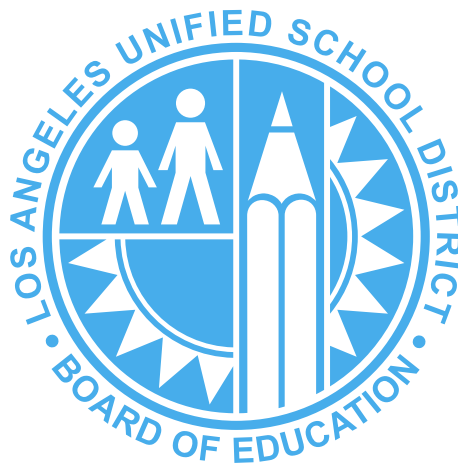
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Welcome Back to School



A new school year brings excitement as the doors of opportunity open to students. The doors may not be open at school facilities as we start the year but the opportunity to learn must be there for all students. Our efforts, whether online or at school, are to make sure we provide students with a good education. The impact of COVID-19 requires us to take different approaches and put forth extraordinary efforts, we are committed to both.

The Back to School Plan is intended to serve as a blueprint for the measures, systems, and practices necessary to provide the appropriate continuity of both care and instruction to all students, families and staff as we begin the 2020-21 school year. Whether students are in a classroom at school or at home, our commitment to your children is to provide them with the best possible education.

These are difficult times for all of us. Together, we can and will find a way to get through this crisis. You have my unwavering commitment to do the best we can for students and their families.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Austin Beutner

Superintendent



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	What We've Learned	6
3	Smart Start: Beginning 2020-21 Online	11
4	Instruction.....	12
5	Smart Start Resources	19
6	Preparing for a Return to Campus	20
7	Communication and Engagement.....	23
8	Additional Information and Resources	24

Introduction

The Los Angeles Unified community has come together to exhibit a collective strength in mobilizing the supports and resources necessary to begin the school year on August 18. It is in this spirit that the following framework has been put together – to outline the processes, practices, and considerations Los Angeles Unified is orienting around to begin the 2020-21 school year safely and responsibly. **While Los Angeles Unified will begin the school year fully remote, we intend to transition to a hybrid in-person model once that option is better aligned with the health and safety of the entire school community.**



Objectives

The challenge for Los Angeles schools, given the public health landscape at the moment, is how to strike the right balance between three important objectives for our community. These objectives have served as guiding considerations for us since schools first closed in March. This document will address Los Angeles Unified's approach to meeting these objectives and providing for the needs of the communities we serve.

Providing a safety net for students & families

- Nutrition
- Mental health
- Childcare

Meeting the learning needs of students

- Address learning loss due to absence from school
- Maximize instructional time
- Quality online and in-person instruction

Protecting the health & safety of the school community

- Reduce risk for all at schools
- Help decrease spread of virus

How the Plan was Created

Los Angeles Unified serves and is served by a wide array of different stakeholders, all of whose needs and interests informed a plan of this complexity through a rigorous research and engagement process.

This document was also developed in coordination with state and local health and education agencies, including California Department of Education, California Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Los Angeles Unified will continue to work in partnership with these agencies to ensure we are aligned with the most up-to-date policies and research around safe district operations.



★ Students and families, teachers and staff, principals, labor partners, and community organizations

Community Health Factors

The health and safety of all in our community is a top priority for Los Angeles Unified. For facilities to reopen for in-person instruction, Los Angeles Unified must meet the appropriate California Department of Public Health (CADPH) guidelines. CADPH says that schools can reopen once these criteria are no longer met:

Occurrence and Testing	Health System Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved less than 150 tests per day per 100,000 people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a 10% or more increase in hospitalizations over the past 3 days compared to the prior three days,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have more than 100 cases per 100,000 residents* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 20% of ICU beds are open, or
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have more than 25 cases per 100,000 residents and case positivity rates greater than 8.0% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 25% of ventilators are available

*At the time of publication, Los Angeles County had a case rate of 338 per 100,000 residents (8/5/2020)

What We've Learned

March 16 – June 12 and June 24 – July 28 provided 18 weeks for students and teachers to immerse themselves in online learning. The information in the tables under the 2020-21 column represents our plans to improve support for students, families, and staff in the coming school year.

Mastering Online Instruction

We have outlined clear expectations for teaching and learning in an online setting to start the 2020-21 school year, as well as how we monitor and support students learning online.

Challenge	Spring/Summer	2020-21
Improving Online Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent schedules (Spring) • Variety of online teaching methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular schedule • Standards-based instruction • Daily live interaction • Assessment of student progress
Attendance and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracked when students logged in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily attendance will be taken • More data on where students are engaged
Extra Support for Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School available for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutoring by appointment • Saturday School options for extra support and enrichment • Intersession learning (Winter break)
"Primary Promise"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School available for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading teachers for high-needs students • Additional instruction in English Language Arts and math



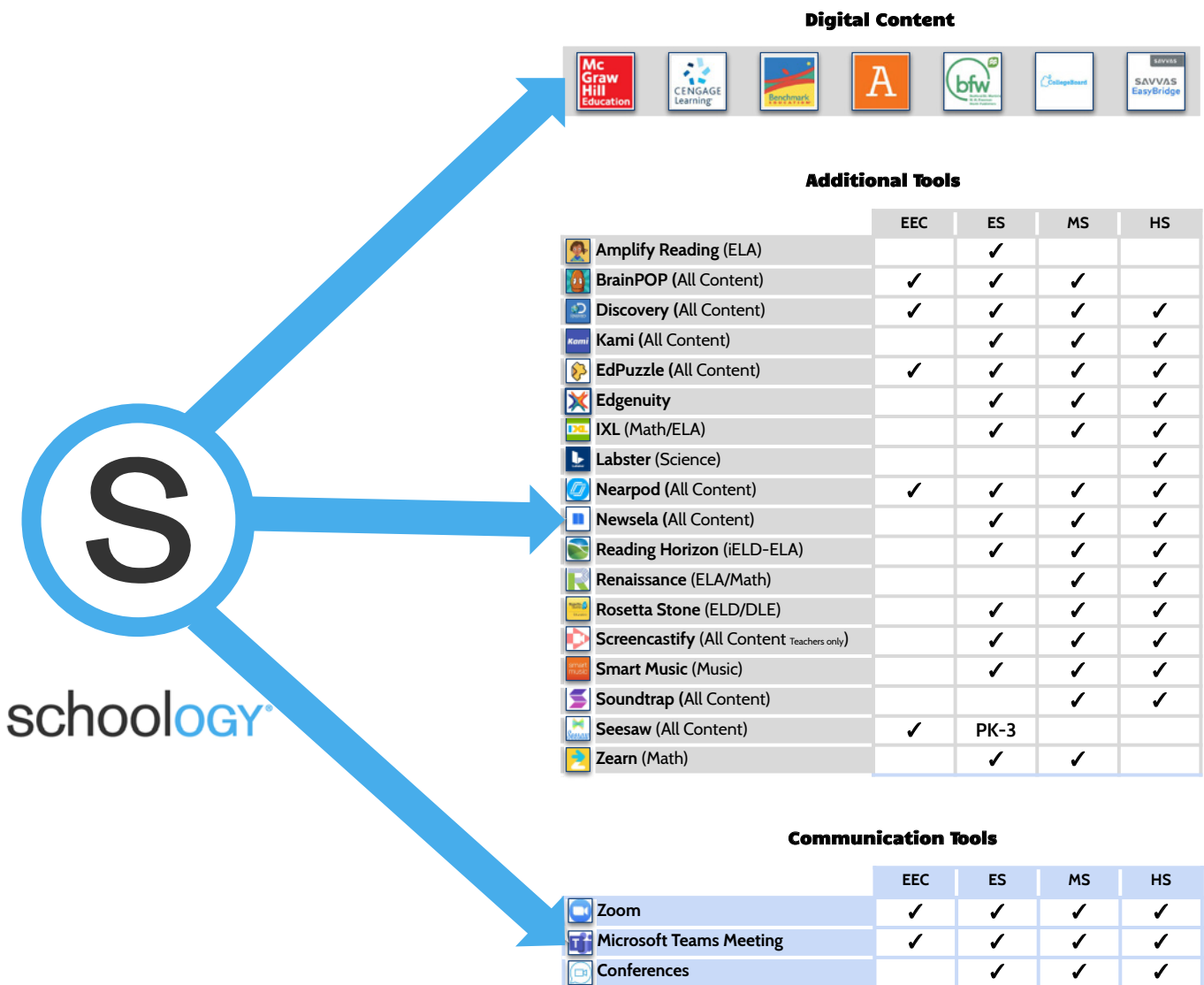
Simplifying Technology

In 2020-21, it will be easier for teachers to find and use the best tools and technology to effectively deliver instruction and support student learning at home.

11,000 educators surveyed to identify best digital tools

Schoology is the “one-stop shop” for access to digital learning tools

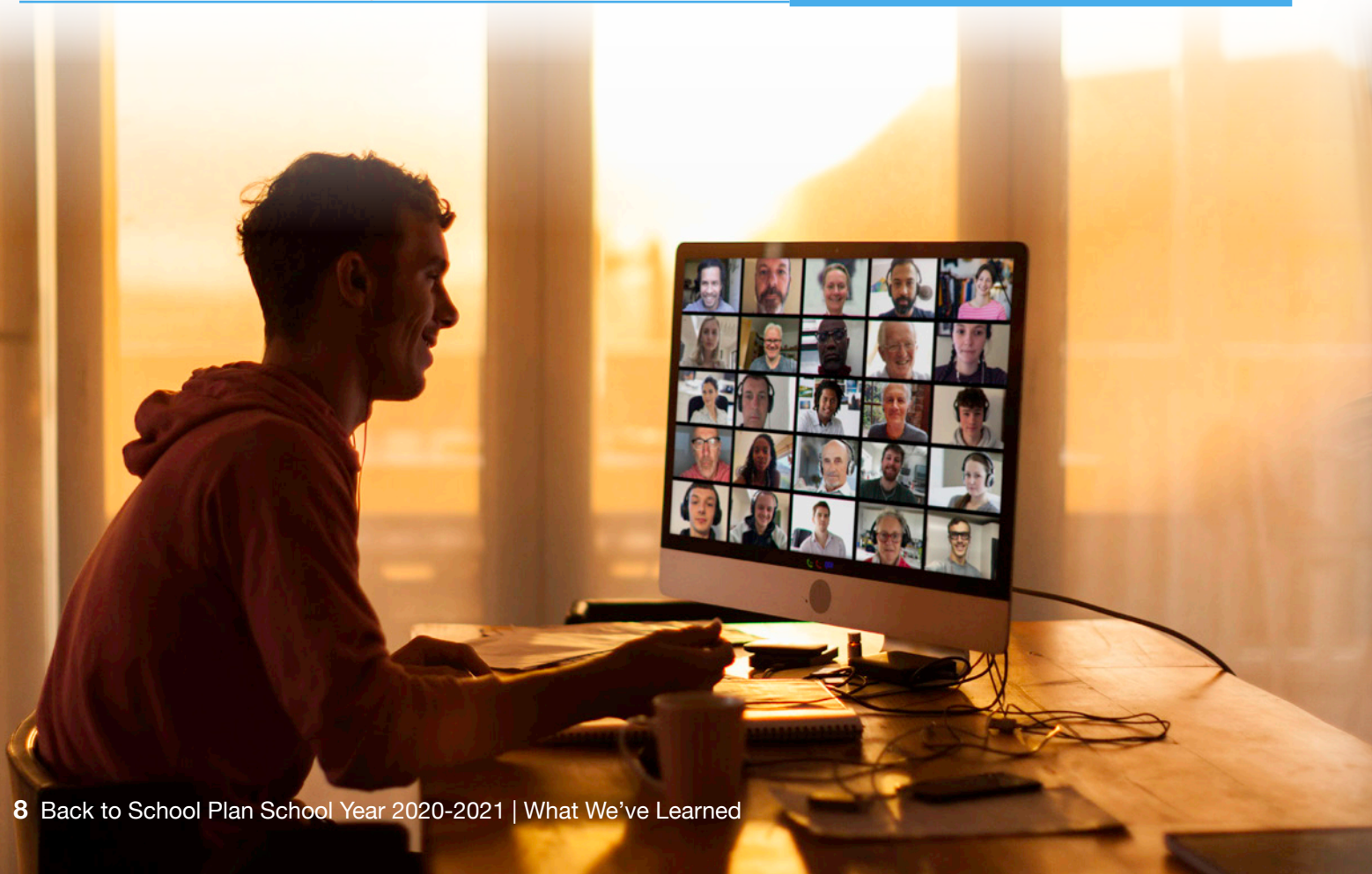
Teachers can access all of this information via Whole Child data platform



Support for Instruction

In 2020-21, we will continue to expand the instructional supports and services offered to students and families most in need.

Challenge	Spring/Summer	2020-21
Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold IEP team meetings virtually • Services provided by teachers, related service providers, special education paraprofessionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of synchronous services provided by teachers, related service providers, special education paraprofessionals • Continue IEP meetings virtually (with in-person option in hybrid model) • Ongoing professional development for service providers • Increased collaboration with general education teacher
Additional Instructional Support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-group instruction with teacher assistants, substitutes, and pool teachers • More staff assisting with device distribution, technology phone support, and family outreach • PBS partnership for accessible educational programming



Support for Students and Families

We will offer additional resources for students and families to be best prepared academically, physically, and emotionally for learning in 2020-21.

Challenge	Spring/Summer	2020-21
Digital Divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided devices and hotspots for students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students have a device, internet, and instructional materials • Repair or replace devices that are not working
Technology Training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone hotline for issues • “LA Unified Help for Families” YouTube channel • Family and Student Handbook for getting online
Safety Net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided more than 50 million meals to students and families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue food relief effort until students return to schools
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone hotline • Parent workshops • Mental health partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-building activities • Emotional check-ins • Continued phone hotline • Professional development on social-emotional learning



Health and Safety

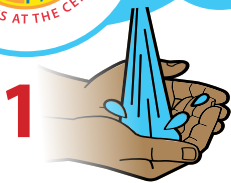
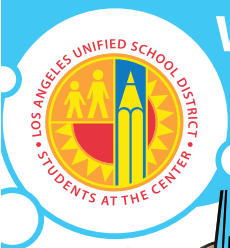
As our top priority, we will take all the necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of our entire Los Angeles Unified school community.

Challenge	Spring/Summer	2020-21
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE kits for staff at school sites • Ensure face coverings at all sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate PPE to staff • Ensure face coverings at all sites
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfect high-touch surfaces • Modify air circulation systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized disinfecting equipment • Increase custodial staff • Modify room layouts • Post signs throughout schools outlining safety practices
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing signs/instructions at all sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surplus of soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer in every classroom • Clear health protocols shared with the community

COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Clean Your Hands Often

Washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of **COVID-19**



1

Wet your hands with clean, running water

2



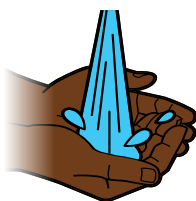
Apply soap

3



Lather and scrub hands for at least 20 seconds

4



Rinse your hands well under clean, running water

5



Dry your hands using a clean towel

WHEN TO WASH HANDS:

- Arriving and leaving home or school
- After playing outside
- After having close contact with others
- After using shared surfaces or items
- Before and after using restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing
- Before and after eating and preparing foods

HAND SANITIZER

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.



Smart Start: Beginning 2020-21 Online

As the health and safety of staff and students is paramount, we will begin the 2020-21 school year with online learning. In this model, instruction takes place away from school buildings but under the direction of classroom teachers and with support of other staff members. Los Angeles Unified is planning for a “Smart Start” to the school year, ensuring students and families are equipped with necessary resources and guidance to begin the 2020-21 school year online.

First Week of School

AUGUST					
	Monday 17th	Tuesday 18th	Wednesday 19th	Thursday 20th	Friday 21st
Teachers and Staff	Professional Development and Common Planning • Technology Platforms • Essential Standards • Meeting the Needs of All Learners			Regular instructional schedule begins	Instructional day
Students and Families*		Device, textbook, instructional material distribution Schoolwide orientation	“Meet Your Teacher”		

*Specific activities and daily schedules may vary by school; please contact your school to learn more about plans for this week








Instruction

Online Learning

- All students will be exposed to rigorous, cognitively engaging learning experiences
- Teachers will focus on teaching essential standards and will prioritize the concepts and skills that are of immediate importance in learning the current level's content
- Feedback will be timely, frequent, relevant, and aligned to the instructional outcome
- We will provide academic and other supports designed to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities, and students in foster care or experiencing homelessness
- In order to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Standard English Learners and to maximize learning outcomes, educators will focus on infusing Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy throughout their instructional day
- Teachers will consider the variability in background knowledge, learning style, and learning challenges of the diverse learners in the online classroom

Fostering Well-Being and Community

A sense of community helps stakeholders feel valued and included. Strategic activities provide opportunities for individuals to learn more about each other, resulting in deeper levels of connection and a sense of belonging. A simple and fun way to approach community building is through thematic events and activities.

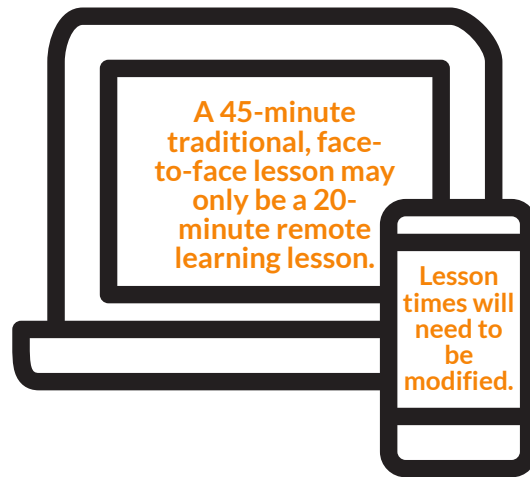
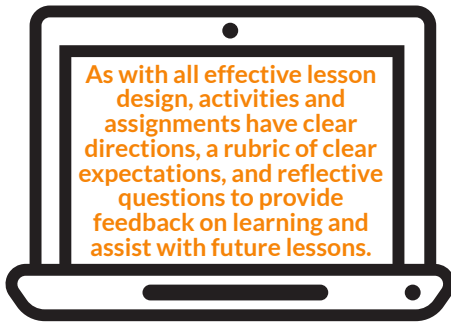
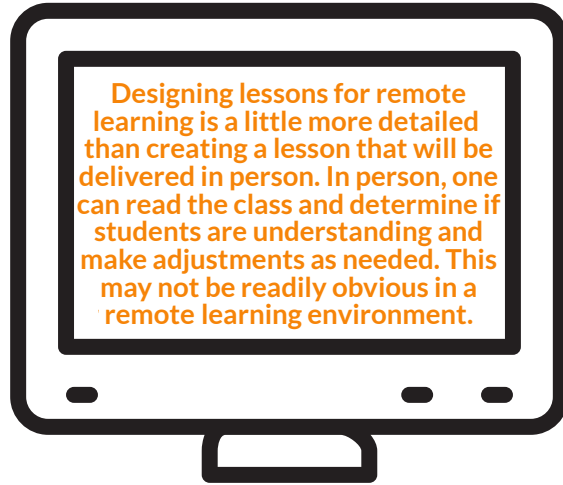
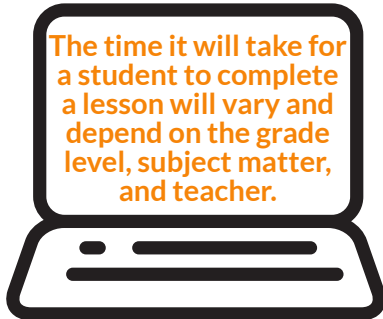
	Mindful Monday	Mindfulness is the ability to be fully present in the moment. It can provide numerous benefits, from decreased stress and sadness to increased levels of focus and happiness, according to research. Mindfulness meditation practice is one way to truly experience the current moment and integrate that awareness into your everyday life.
	Grati-Tuesday	Gratitude is one of many positive emotions. It's about focusing on what is good in our lives and being thankful for the things we have. Gratitude is pausing to notice and appreciate the things we often take for granted, like having a place to live, food, clean water, friends, family, and even computer access.
	Wellness Wednesday	There are Eight Dimensions of Wellness: emotional, physical, social, occupational, spiritual, environmental, financial, and intellectual. Each dimension of wellness is interrelated and equally vital in the pursuit of optimum health. Understanding how to maintain and optimize each of the dimensions can support an optimal level of overall wellness.
	Thoughtful Thursday	Doing something for others is powerful for your wellbeing. In fact, when we give to others, our brain's pleasure and reward centers light up as if we were the receiver and not the giver! We also get a boost of feel-good endorphins and a hormone called oxytocin is released, which lowers our stress!
	Fun Friday	Fun Friday is the opportunity to learn more about our students while building community and developing and strengthening relationships. Be creative and have fun!

Support for Teachers in Improving Online Teaching Practices

In 2020-21, Los Angeles Unified teachers will use research-based practices to ensure online instruction is designed and delivered to meet the needs of all learners.



Remote Lesson Design



Setting the Lesson

Define Lesson Objectives

Assess Current Understanding

Introduce Content

Assign Application Activity

Assess Mastery



All District Staff Supporting Instruction

Los Angeles Unified will leverage the talent of all staff members to maximize the support our students and families receive in an online learning setting.

- Provide professional development to support the continued development of the instructional leaders and teachers
- Support students with online small-group instruction with additional teachers and aides
- Classroom aides will be assigned to support teachers in the classroom and in breakout sessions
- Library aides will provide small-group reading activities
- Local District staff will support parents and students with technology
- Additional staff at school sites will support preparation and distribution of devices and instructional materials



Sample online schedules



Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Time	Mon★	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
9:00-9:20	Weekly Assembly	Synchronous Whole-Group Learning (Social Studies, Science, Music, Art)				Additional Instruction and Enrichment Activities
9:20-9:55	Synchronous Whole-Group Learning					
9:45-9:55	Break					
9:55-10:40	English Language Arts					
10:40-10:50	Break					
10:50-11:35	Mathematics					
11:35-12:05	Lunch					
12:05-12:50	Core Instruction					
12:55-1:25	English Language Development Small-Group Support					
1:25-2:15	Professional Development and Staff Planning (1:15-2:15)	Additional Instruction Office hours Tutoring				

★ Times for Monday schedule will vary slightly



Typical Day for an Elementary English Learner Student

Morning 9:00-11:35 AM	Afternoon 12:05-2:15 PM	After School and Saturdays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student login and attendance Whole-group learning with teacher Student-teacher daily wellness check-in Distance learning routines and norms review Small-group differentiated instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated English language development Whole-group learning with teacher Small-group differentiated instruction Development of constructive conversation skills Physical education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-on-one tutoring by appointment (online or in-person) Additional instruction and enrichment

Focus on English Learners

Los Angeles Unified is committed to providing the best instructional programs and services to meet the differentiated linguistic and academic needs of the approximately 100,000 English Learners (ELs), who comprise approximately 20% of our student population. Los Angeles Unified educators foster an assets-based mindset by knowing, valuing, and affirming their students' cultures and languages.

Typical Day for an Elementary Student with an Individualized Education Program



Morning
9:00-11:35

- Students log in to Schoology using QR code
- Teacher takes daily student attendance
- Students have access to live and self-paced learning
- Students are taught lessons aligned with Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals
- Support staff will provide personalized services based on student need



Afternoon
12:05-2:15

- Students work in small groups
- Independent work time for students
- Teacher-student interaction focused on needs
- Student support and office hours
- Support staff will provide personalized services based on student need

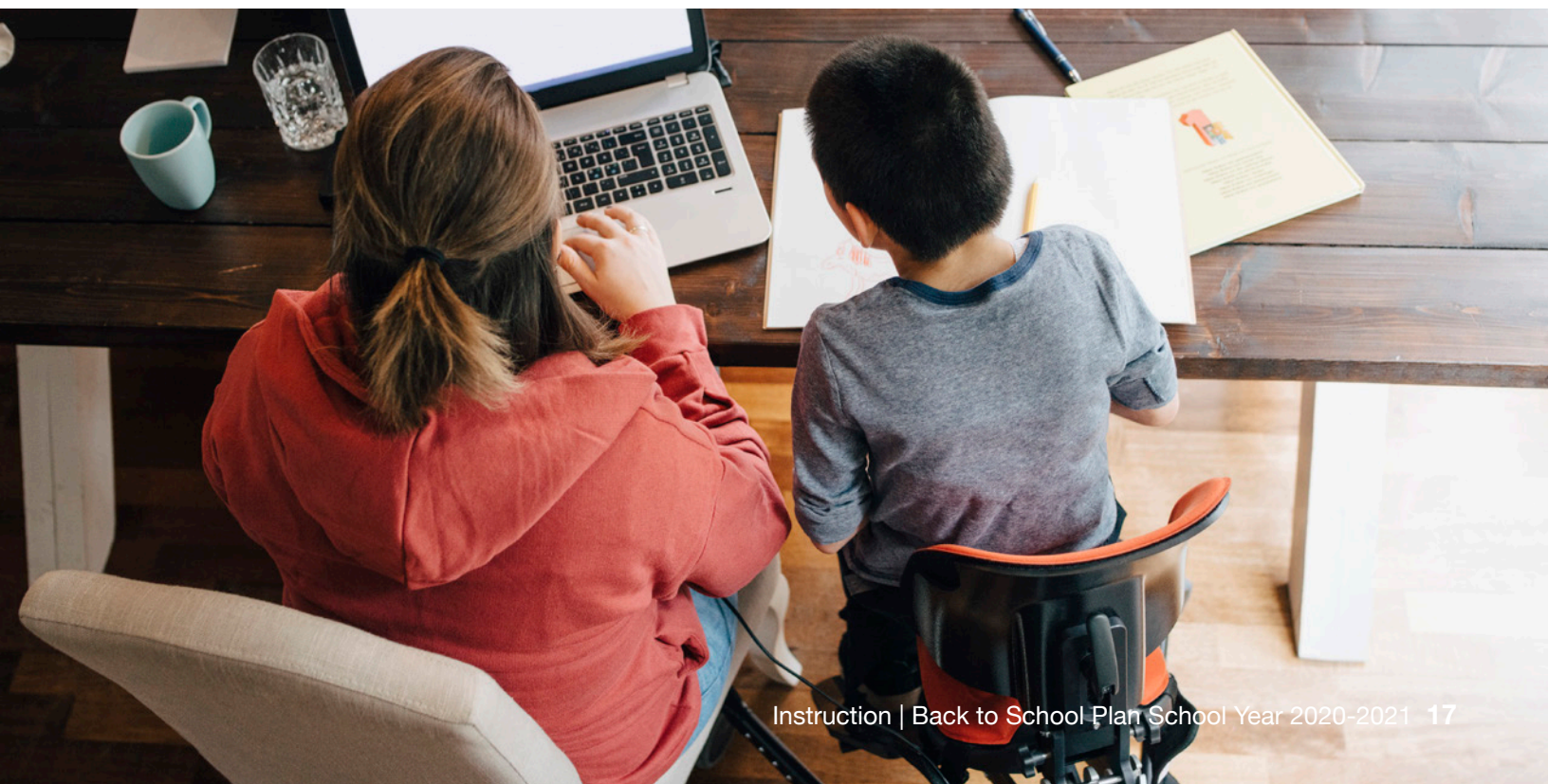


**After School
and Saturdays**

- Access to one-on-one tutoring by appointment (online or in-person)
- Access to additional instruction and enrichment activities

Focus on Students with Disabilities

Los Angeles Unified is committed to providing the best instructional programs and services for our approximately 72,000 students with disabilities. We will ensure that students with disabilities have equitable, meaningful access to learning opportunities. Instruction will be tailored to the individualized needs of students, as specified in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), to the extent feasible.



Secondary (Six Periods)

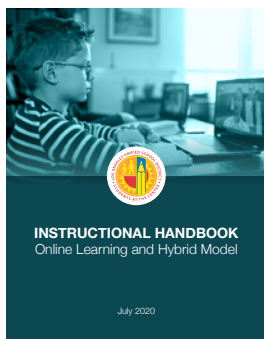
Time	Mon★	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
9:00-10:10	Period 1/2 Additional Support/Intervention	Period 1/2			Additional Instruction and Enrichment Activities	
10:15-11:25	Period 3/4 Additional Support/Intervention	Period 3/4				
11:30-12:00	Period 5/6 Additional Support/Intervention	Student Support Advisory				
12:00-12:30	Lunch					On-on-one Tutoring by Appointment
12:30-1:00	Parent Outreach Time Office hours	Student Support Advisory				
1:05-2:15	Professional Development Planning Time (1:15-2:15)	Period 5/6				

★ Mondays are designated as Instructional Support Days



Smart Start Resources

To prepare our students, families, educators, and school leaders for online learning, the district has prepared detailed guidebooks for each group to ensure everyone will be ready for an exceptional educational experience on August 18.



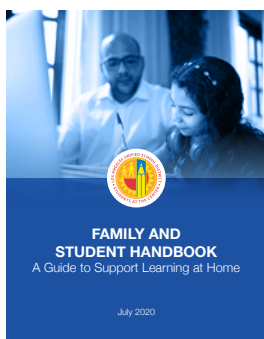
INSTRUCTIONAL HANDBOOK Online Learning and Hybrid Model

Guidance and support for administrators and teachers for the transition back to instruction in 2020-21



FOR TEACHERS BY TEACHERS Playbook to Kick-Off the School Year

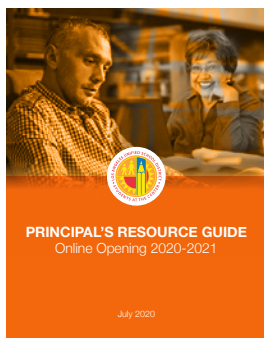
Set of sample lessons, classroom routines, and community-building activities for the first month of school



FAMILY AND STUDENT HANDBOOK A Guide to Support Learning at Home

Guide providing all of the essential information students and families need to access online learning for the days leading up to, and through, the first days of school

[Link](#)



PRINCIPAL'S RESOURCE GUIDE Online Opening 2020-2021

Comprehensive guide of resources and information for school-based administrators to prepare for a seamless launch of online instruction at school sites

Preparing for a Return to Campus

Why a Hybrid Model?

We know that students learn best when they are on campus with their teachers and their peers. When it is deemed safe and advisable to reopen our campuses for instruction by agencies such as the California Department of Public Health and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, we may do so in a hybrid model. This model would help achieve our goal of maintaining social distancing and reduce number of interactions between people to mitigate the risk of viral spread.



Health Practices on Campus

- Symptom checks and screening
- Modified classroom layouts
- Staggered start times
- Require physically distancing (6+ feet)
- One-direction traffic in hallway
- Require face coverings
- Frequent opportunities to wash or disinfect hands
- Disinfect desks, tables, chairs, and other surfaces in between uses
- Upgrade air filtration systems

Sample Schedule – Hybrid Model

The following schedules are samples for what school configurations may look like in a hybrid model. While no schedules have been finalized, these examples represent options that maximize instructional time for our students and ensure responsible health and safety practices for all by reducing the number of students on campus at any given time.

Pre-K/Elementary

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Cohort A	Onsite (AM)	Onsite (AM)	Onsite (AM)	Onsite (AM)	Onsite (AM)	Optional instruction and enrichment
Cohort B	Onsite (PM)	Onsite (PM)	Onsite (PM)	Onsite (PM)	Onsite (PM)	

Secondary

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Cohort A	Onsite	Online	Onsite or online (alternating weeks)	Onsite	Online	Optional instruction and enrichment
Cohort B	Online	Onsite	Onsite or online (alternating weeks)	Online	Onsite	

One-on-one tutoring available by appointment Monday - Saturday (online or in-person)
Cohort C: 100% online instruction available for students at all levels

Transportation

In a hybrid model, transportation for students will continue with reduced seating capacity, following possible recommendations from several health and education agencies:

- Students may be seated one child per row, window to window, skipping rows (with siblings able to sit together)
- Frequently touched surfaces on school buses may be cleaned and disinfected daily
- Require face coverings for students and staff at bus stops and on buses

Childcare for School Staff During Online Learning

- Supervised care for school-age children (TK-8) of employees at their school site
- At least 1 staff person for every 6 children
- Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Childcare in a Hybrid Model

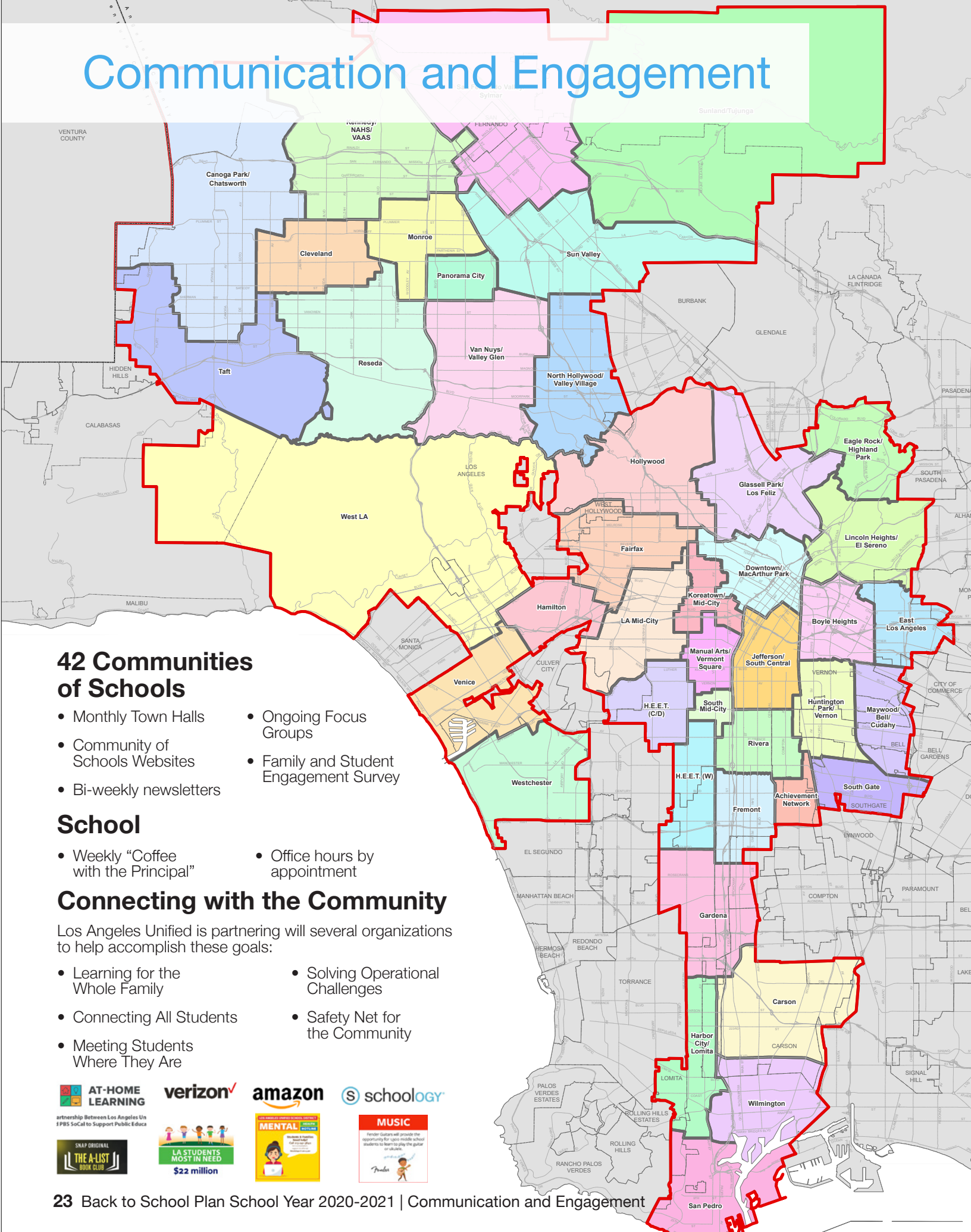
- In hybrid model, K-8 students will have supervised care when not receiving direct, on-campus instruction
- Effort may utilize facilities in local communities (libraries, community colleges, parks & recreation sites)
- Sites will be supervised by Los Angeles Unified staff



Food Services

Prior to the pandemic, roughly 80% of Los Angeles Unified students qualified for free and reduced-price meals, of which 19,000 students were experiencing homelessness and another 24,000 students were in foster care. These numbers have since grown and food insecurity amongst families has increased significantly. The need for food is evident based on the 50 million meals that have been distributed to Los Angeles Unified families between March and July of this year. Los Angeles Unified will continue our food relief effort until students physically return to campus. Once in-person, hybrid instruction begins, we will ensure safety, including maintaining physical distancing during school meals, offering multiple or staggered meal periods, and leveraging technology to enable families to order meals online.

Communication and Engagement



42 Communities of Schools

- Monthly Town Halls
- Community of Schools Websites
- Bi-weekly newsletters
- Ongoing Focus Groups
- Family and Student Engagement Survey

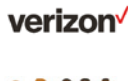
School

- Weekly “Coffee with the Principal”
- Office hours by appointment

Connecting with the Community

Los Angeles Unified is partnering with several organizations to help accomplish these goals:

- Learning for the Whole Family
- Connecting All Students
- Meeting Students Where They Are
- Solving Operational Challenges
- Safety Net for the Community



Additional Information and Resources

For More Information, Resources, and Answers to Your Questions, Visit [lausd.net](https://www.lausd.net)

Family and Student Health:

Mental Health Hotline: (213) 241-3840

Ask About COVID-19 and Supports ask-shhs@lausd.net

[LAUSD Student Health and Human Services](#)

English Learners Resources:

[California Department Education COVID-19 EL Resources](#)

Special Education Resources:

[SPED Parent COVID-19 Webpage](#)

Technology:

LAUSD Information Technology Division Help Desk: (213) 443-1300

[LAUSD ITD](#)

[Getting Devices Online](#)

Family Engagement Resources:

COVID-19 Family Hotline: (213) 443-1300

[Parent and Community Services Website](#)

[Parent Portal](#)

Public Health Guidance:

[Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools](#)

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\): Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[California Department of Education \(CDE\) Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Reopening of California's Public Schools](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Planning and Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#)

Additional Resources:

[Early Education Website](#)

[Adult Education Website](#)

[Grab n Go Center Information](#)



Thank
You!