



LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020 – 2021 District Opening & Safety Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

What will be the normal student-to-teacher ratios for the Traditional Schooling and the LosAI@Home distance learning pathways? *The student-to-teacher ratios will follow the same expectations in both settings. For grades TK-3, the average staffing ratio is 24:1. For grades 4-5, the district-wide staffing ratio is 32:1. In grades 6-12, the average class-size ratio is 34:1. The ratios reflect the number of students assigned to a teacher's class, but the actual number of students meeting with a teacher at one time will be determined by whether they are learning in a distance, hybrid, or traditional setting.*

What is the difference between Traditional and Hybrid settings? Are they separate models families can select or are they one option the District will select? *The traditional and hybrid models are part of the traditional schooling pathway; they are not separate choices for families. The traditional and hybrid schedule are instructional schedules that may be implemented when in-person instruction is allowed for those that select the traditional schooling pathway. When in-person instruction is permitted, the District will assess the current conditions and restrictions in place at the time to decide if we implement the traditional schedule (all in-person) or the hybrid schedule (50% in-person) for a given grade level or school. Our Reopening School Plan already has these schedules designed so that we can make the best decision when the conditions allow.*

In the Traditional Schooling Pathway, if my child has to stay home due to illness or quarantine, can they make up the work through LosAI@Home? *Students who are in the Traditional Schooling Pathway that miss school will be able to make up any missed work just as they would in a traditional school year; they will not switch to LosAI@Home.*

Based on the guidelines for elective courses, can students change to a different elective course if they no longer want to remain in an elective due to limitations and restrictions? *Yes, a student may change his/her elective preference, based on availability, and they need to contact their school guidance counselor as soon as possible.*

In a Hybrid setting, when students attend school as part of an AM or PM group, will siblings be assigned the same group? *In grades TK-5 siblings that attend the same school site will be assigned to the same AM or PM cohort. Due to more complex scheduling at the secondary level, however it cannot be guaranteed that siblings will be in the same cohort.*

If childcare is not offered as part of a Hybrid setting, will working families be able choose which learning cohort they are in – AM or PM? *The District will assign AM/PM cohorts to students and then make every effort to work with families in unique circumstances.*

If staggered start times are organized alphabetically to keep TK-5 families together, will classes also be created alphabetically at the elementary level? *No, elementary classes will be formed as they are every school year to create balanced classrooms that best support learning.*

With the Block schedule, will students be given a break during the period? *While there is not a set break time within the block period of instruction, students will have an opportunity for a brain break within the period.*

For the Hybrid setting, on alternate Wednesdays when a cohort is "off" will there be mandatory learning via Schools PLP, or just a lot of homework, or will that be similar to a vacation day for the students in that cohort? *Students in the Hybrid model will have asynchronous learning every other Wednesday. This means that students will be required to log into Schools PLP and complete the assignments for each class. These assignments are developed by teachers to be completed independently by students.*

For the high school Distance Learning setting, instructional time has been reduced to 240 minutes, will teachers be assigning homework to supplement the loss of classroom time? *Yes, teachers will still be assigning projects and assignments in addition to the live instruction time to supplement instruction.*

How will (6-12) PE classes be instructed within the different instructional pathways? Is PE offered through LosAl@Home? *Physical education classes will be offered in the traditional schooling pathway in compliance with current guidelines set forth by the California Department of Public Health. In addition, PE classes will be offered in all remote settings, LosAl@Home and distance learning for traditional schooling pathway students.*

LOSAL@HOME

For the latest information about LosAl@Home please visit the program website at www.losal.org/losalhome.

What is the daily schedule for LosAl@Home school to start and end? *LosAl@Home will follow the same schedule as the on-campus classes.*

What is the difference between distance learning and LosAl@Home?

Distance learning is one of three phases within the traditional schooling pathway. While in the traditional schooling pathway, if the classroom or school is unable to provide in-person instruction (due to county and state health agency restrictions) teachers and students will engage in distance learning until the classroom or school is allowed to resume in-person instruction. Once state and county health restrictions permit in-person learning, distance learning in this pathway will migrate to in-person learning. LosAl@Home is a separate schooling pathway being offered that is a 100% remote learning for the year. Students in this pathway stay in remote teaching throughout the year, even if county and local health agency regulations permit in-person instruction.

Can families selecting LosAl@Home change their minds mid-year and be allowed to go into the traditional schooling pathway at the start of the second semester? *Any change from one schooling pathway to the other will be dependent upon space availability given our normal class size and staffing ratios. Enrollment in the LosAl@Home Program is for the 2020-21 school year. The opportunity for a student to return to the traditional schooling pathway may be limited and will be solely based on enrollment and staffing availability at each of the nine District schools.*

In December, a survey will be sent to families enrolled in the LosAl@Home program to ascertain levels of interest in returning to our traditional schooling pathway, attending schooling on-campus at the start of the second semester (February 1, 2021). This information will be utilized to assess the availability of a return plan for interested families. Again, it is important to note that any return plan would be based on enrollment numbers and staffing availability. If a change to a return to a physical campus was granted, we cannot guarantee that it would be at the student's regular school of attendance. These realities need to be factored into a family's decision whether or not to enroll in the LosAl@Home program.

See sample scenario below to help illustrate the issue:

A LosAl@Home 3rd grade class has 24 students in it (normal District staffing ratio). Near the end of the first semester, 10 of the 24 students surveyed from that class want to return to in-person instruction at the second semester. If space is available in the in-person classrooms with our current staffing to absorb the 10 request, we would be able to grant the requests. Note, that the available open space may not be at the child's home school, it could be a placement district-wide. However, if we only had four spaces district-wide to grant the request it would leave six of the requests that could not be granted. When looking at this district-wide, more options may be available to grant the requests.

We will review the request district-wide to find the best possible solutions. The survey conducted in December will help us assess and develop a return plan to address as many requests as possible while also not dismantling current traditional schooling pathway classrooms.

Can families selecting the traditional schooling pathway switch to LosAl@Home at the second semester or mid-year? *Any change from one schooling pathway to the other will be dependent upon space availability given our normal class size and staffing ratios. Enrollment in each of the pathways is for the 2020-21 school year. The opportunity for a student to switch between the traditional schooling pathway and the LosAl@Home pathway may be limited and will be solely based on enrollment and staffing availability within each program. See sample scenario above in the previous question.*

Is it permissible for one student in a family to choose the LosAl@Home program while their sibling chooses to attend the Traditional Schooling Pathway? *Yes, families can select the schooling pathway they feel is best for each child.*

Will students who participate in LosAl@Home, need to attend live online instruction daily? *Yes, students enrolled in LosAl@Home will have set live daily instruction times where participation will be expected, or they will be considered absent.*

Will students who choose the LosAl@Home distance learning program be allowed to participate in after-school activities on campus, like athletics, performing arts, dances and graduation? *Yes, all LosAl@Home students will be able to participate in on-campus afterschool extracurricular activities. LosAl@Home students will not receive course credit or graduation units for participation in any after-school activity.*

Will eighth grade students who were previously scheduled to attend a first-period class at Los Alamitos High School be able to attend the advanced math or world language course through LosAl@Home? *Yes.*

How are LosAl@Home teachers prepared and supported to teach in the distance learning pathway? *All Los Alamitos Unified teachers participate in ongoing professional development in our signature practices such as Cognitively Guided Instruction and Depth and Complexity. Prior to the start of the year, every teacher will*

receive training in Schools PLP, as well as other online tools (ex. Google Meet). Teachers will continue to receive ongoing training and support from our Instructional Coaches, as well as our EdTech trainers.

What does online learning in LosAI@Home look like? *LosAI@Home learning will provide the same scope and sequence of learning provided by Los Alamitos USD traditional school pathways. The learning opportunities will be rigorous and students will be expected to participate daily in videoconferencing sessions with their teachers and peers at specific times designated in the LosAI@Home schedule. Additionally, students will build proficiency through practice in the Schools PLP learning environment. The curriculum and learning supports are the same Los AI learning tools provided in traditional classrooms, updated for an online format.*

What is the difference in the learning schedules between the Traditional Schooling Pathway and LosAI@Home? *Please use the table below to see when each type of learning schedule will be deployed in both the Traditional Schooling Pathway and the LosAI@Home Pathway. Secondary schools, (6-12), in both pathways will always be deploying the same learning schedule.*

LEARNING SCHEDULES			
Traditional Schooling Pathway vs. <u>LosAI@Home</u>			
	Campuses Are Closed	Campuses on Hybrid	Campuses on Traditional with Health & Safety Enhancements
(TK-5) Traditional Pathway	Distance Learning	Hybrid Learning	Full Day Staggered Arrival/Departure
(TK-5) <u>LosAI@Home</u>	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	Revised Robust Learning Schedule
(6-12) Traditional Pathway	Distance Learning	Hybrid Learning	Full Day Block Schedule
(6-12) <u>LosAI@Home</u>	Distance Learning	Hybrid Learning	Full Day Block Schedule

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Does an IEP need to be scheduled to enroll my child in the LosAI@Home option? *No. California is permitting parents of all students to elect distance learning for their student where COVID or health-related concerns exist.*

How will my student’s services be implemented within a Distance Learning or Virtual format? *While participating in LosAI@Home or distance learning, the emergency conditions plan (or distance learning plan)*

specified in each student's IEP will be implemented. If a student's IEP team has not yet adopted an emergency conditions plan (or distance learning plan), then the IEP team will implement that student's current IEP in a comparable manner and to the maximum extent feasible during distance learning, until the next regularly scheduled revision for that student's IEP, at which time such a plan will be added to the IEP.

If families choose LosAl@Home for the year, will they be able to continue working with their IEP team (speech and language pathologist, case manager, school psychologist, etc.) from their home school or will they have to start with a new IEP team? *A special education case carrier and service providers will be assigned for the school year, and these individuals may not be associated with that student's regular school of attendance. Prior to the start of the school year, each case carrier/service provider will be expected to become familiar with the IEPs of those students they will be supporting.*

Will students in all pathways have access to instructional assistants as outlined in their IEP? *Yes, if a student's IEP specifies the use of instructional aide support, this will be provided in a comparable manner or as specified in the emergency conditions plan (or distance learning plan) in the student's IEP.*

How will initial and triennial assessments be conducted? *At this time, and absent of further state or local health department guidance or orders, it is anticipated that assessment timelines will (re)commence on the first day of school, August 31. It is anticipated that School Psychologists and service providers will contact parents beginning the week of August 17 to schedule in-person assessment sessions for those students with pending signed assessment plans. Safety protocols and precautions, such as use of face coverings, will be utilized as set forth by the California Department of Public Health.*

How will IEP goals and accommodations be implemented via Distance Learning? *All IEP goals and accommodations will be implemented to the greatest extent feasible. If the IEP team has not already done so, an emergency conditions plan (or distance learning plan) will also be added to your student's IEP which will outline how special education, services, and supports (including accommodations) will be provided to your student during any period (of more than 10 school days) in which in-person instruction or services cannot be provided to your student.*

How will students eligible under Section 504 plan be accommodated? *If a student has a Section 504 plan, the accommodations and supports outlined in the plan will be implemented to the maximum extent feasible while that student participates in the LosAl@Home pathway. Accommodations and supports may need to be revised at the next scheduled 504 plan meeting in order to ensure that the student continues to have an equal opportunity to access their educational program.*

HEALTH & SAFETY

As defined by the California Department of Public Health:

Close Contact – A contact within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes.

Cohort -Stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities (e.g., lunch, recess, etc.) and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts.

What conditions must be met before schools can shift from distance learning to on-campus instruction? *Orange County will need to be removed from the County Monitoring List and remain off the monitoring list for 14 consecutive days. Per the California Department of Public Health, some of the factors used in determining the monitoring list include a minimum number of tests conducted per day, COVID-19 positive case rate per 100,000 residents, and testing positivity rate.*

If a student or staff member is sent home with COVID-related symptoms, under what conditions will other students and the community be notified? *Students and staff will only be notified if there is a known case of COVID-19 in their classroom and/or cohort of students. In consultation with the local health department, individuals identified as having close contact with a positive case will be notified; the school will remain open. The classroom will be disinfected and sanitized, focusing on frequently touched locations and spaces where the individual who tested positive spent a significant amount of time.*

If a student or staff member has COVID-related symptoms, will they be required to get tested and report their results to the school? *Any student or staff member with COVID-related symptoms will be isolated, sent home, and encouraged to be tested and to notify the school of the results. Staff and students may return to school three days (72 hours) after symptoms resolve, including not having a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication.)*

How far apart will students' desks be from each other in the traditional setting and hybrid setting? *In both models, per CDPH Guidelines, classroom desks will have partitions between students, students in third grade and higher will wear masks, and seating will be arranged for students to face the same direction to minimize face-to-face contact. The Hybrid setting will have a smaller number of students, although in both settings, space between desks will be maximized to the greatest extent possible. Non-essential furniture will be removed from classrooms.*

Are children required to wear their face masks while sitting at their desks, and what happens when a student refuses to wear a mask? *Per CDPH Guidelines, students under two years of age are not required to wear masks. Students in TK – 2nd grade will be strongly encouraged to wear masks. Students in third grade and higher are required to wear masks. Students without masks will be provided one by the school. Students who refuse to wear a mask will not be allowed to participate via in-person instruction and will be taught via distance learning.*

The face covering guidance recognizes that there are some people who cannot wear a face covering for a number of different reasons. People are exempted from the requirement if they are under age 2, have a medical or mental health condition or disability that would make it difficult for them to properly wear or handle a mask, or when it would inhibit communication with a person who is hearing impaired.

Are you considering holding classes outdoors since the classrooms do not have windows? *Outdoor spaces will be used as much as practicable.*

How will temperature checks be handled as students arrive at school? *All schools and classrooms have non-contact thermometers. Elementary school students will have their temperatures taken upon arrival in their classroom, and secondary students will have their temperatures taken during zero and/or first period.*

ELEMENTARY WAIVER

Has the CDPH Released the Elementary School Waiver template and is the District exploring this option? *The CDPH released the Elementary School Waiver template and outlined the process on the CDPH website Monday, August 3 in the evening. See link: [CDPH -Reopening In-Person Learning Elementary Education Waiver Process](#)*

Los Alamitos Unified School District is exploring the In-Person Elementary Education Waiver. The waiver must be submitted to the Orange County Health Care Agency within 14 days prior to the desired reopening date. Prior to applying for the waiver, the District must (1) consult with labor, parent, and community organizations, and (2) publish elementary school reopening plans on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent). The waiver will need to be approved at both the county and state level.

What grade levels does the CDPH Elementary School waiver apply to in Los Alamitos USD? *The CDPH waiver the District is exploring will apply for regular and special education classes in grades TK-5.*

Why does the waiver only apply to elementary schools and not middle or high schools? *According to the CDPH, “based on the current best available scientific evidence, COVID-related risks in schools serving elementary-age students (grades TK-6) are lower than and different from the risks to staff and to students in schools serving older students. In particular, there appears to be lower risk of child-to-child or child-to-adult transmission in children under age 12, and the risk of infection and serious illness in elementary school children is particularly low.”*

If the District is granted the Elementary School waiver, allowing for in-person instruction at the elementary level after the August 12, LosAl@Home interest deadline, will elementary families be allowed to request the LosAl@Home pathway before school starts? *Yes. If the District is granted the elementary school waiver allowing for in-person instruction prior to the start of the school year, we will re-open the LosAl@Home pathway to all elementary families so that families can select the best pathway for their child.*

In addition to the guidance above, the California Department of Public Health also released a FAQ for schools on August 3, 2020 that includes detailed responses and can be found [clicking here](#).