



LOMPOC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Superintendent's Community Transmittal

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Dear LUSD Community,

Below are some items of interest:

Update from SBCEO Regarding Reopening Status

Santa Barbara County School Districts/LEAs Open Status as of October 27, 2020

IN-PERSON (in 2020)

- **Ballard School District (H)** open for in-person instruction
- **Blochman Union School District (H)** phased opening: Oct. 13 grade K, Oct. 26 grade 1, Nov. 9 grades 2-3, Nov. 30 grades 4-5, Jan. 11 grades 6-8
- **Carpinteria Unified School District (H)** elementary schools open for in-person instruction
- **Cold Spring School District** open for in-person instruction
- **College School District** phased opening: Nov. 2 grades TK-3, Nov. 16 grades 4-6
- **Hope School District (H)** phased opening: Nov. 5 grades TK-2, Nov. 16 grades 3-4, Nov. 30 grades 5-6
- **Los Olivos School District** phased opening: Oct. 19 grades TK-5, Nov. 9 grades 6-8
- **Montecito Union School District** open for in-person instruction
- **Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District (H)** opening Nov. 9
- **Solvang School District (H)** phased opening: Oct. 26 grades TK-1, Nov. 2 grades 2-3 and 8, Nov. 9 grades 4-7
- **Manzanita Public Charter** open for in-person instruction
- **Santa Ynez Valley Charter** opening Nov. 2

DISTANCE-LEARNING (through 2020)

- **Buellton Union School District** distance learning for the first semester
- **Carpinteria Unified School District (H)** grades 6-12 opening Jan. 7
- **Cuyama Joint Unified School District (H)** opening in January
- **Guadalupe Union School District (H)** distance learning for the first semester, tentative return in February
- **Lompoc Unified School District (H)** opening in two phases by grade span: Jan. 11 elementary, Jan. 25 secondary
- **Santa Barbara Unified School District (H)** opening Jan. 19
- **Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (H)** distance learning for first semester
- **Adelante Charter** opening Jan. 19
- **Santa Barbara Charter School** opening in January

TO BE DETERMINED

- **Goleta Union School District** currently planning to open in the orange tier
- **Orcutt Union School District**
- **Santa Maria-Bonita School District**
- **Vista del Mar Union School District**
- **Peabody Charter**

H = Hybrid



All dates subject to change

Summer School

We are looking into offering a “summer school” experience for students during the Winter Break so we can assist students in lessening the potential learning loss from distance learning. Depending on the level of interest, we will work on creating an impactful experience for our students with the help of COVID funds.

Mandatory Staff Testing

Mandatory staff test kits arrived/are arriving to employees, coaches, substitutes, student teachers and your doorsteps this last week. We will continue this testing every two months, adding newly hired staff as well. Results are provided to those who test through a HIPPA-compliant portal. Anyone who may have contact with staff or students received a test. This is also why Board members received testing kits.

Nationwide Research Firm - EAB

EAB continues to work with us to identify ways to best take care of the mental health of our students and staff. After we develop a strong system of support for our students and staff, we will then work on building confidence in virtual teaching and learning, and finally a focus on literacy across all curriculum areas. We will start with Elementary Common Core Council members, Department Chairs, administrators, Teacher Support Providers, and other volunteers and then identify if we should expand this to our entire District.

Teacher Residency Program

We are continuing with our work to create a teacher residency program so that we can “grow our own” teachers. This will allow us to have a deeper pool of applicants while also having a workforce that’s more reflective of our students and who has gone through our system. We are working with Santa Maria Bonita and Santa Maria Joint Unified School districts to partner in this endeavor.

Wi-Fi for All Students

We continue to make progress on providing Wi-Fi to all LUSD students using a “mesh net” that would provide service to all Lompoc students. ABM is assisting us with the implementation of this project. The project will be cost-neutral. Not only will LUSD students have access to the Wi-Fi, but local businesses as well as the City of Lompoc will also be able to access the Wi-Fi at a discounted price. We will begin on this project this week and should have it up and going within a month. We will continue to update you on the progress. This is going to be huge in providing our students with reliable internet access.

Minimizing Exposure

At school sites and at the Education Center we continue to encourage staff to work remotely whenever possible to minimize the potential for exposure. As a reminder, all staff are eligible for Worker’s Compensation should they contract COVID while at work. In order to minimize that possibility, while also protecting our employees, we are asking that office staff work on a rotational basis so that there continues to be staff available to answer the questions that students or families may have. We are asking other employees to work remotely as much as their positions allow, while still maintaining the same level of service to our families and staff. Please see the following link: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-office-workspaces.pdf>. Page 8 addresses workspace guidance for COVID-19. In addition, we work with each staff member through the interactive process to identify reasonable accommodations.

Racial Equity

The San Diego Union-Tribune: Students work with Poway Unified to fix racism in schools

In June teenage sisters Nene and Ekene Okolo started an Instagram account called Black in PUSD, where they invited Poway Unified students and alumni of color to share what it was like for them at school. They received 1,200 anonymous submissions, most describing racist incidents Black, Latino and Asian students had endured, including racial slurs and assumptions based on stereotypes.

One Black student said White second-graders told Black classmates to play “robbers” while White students played “cops,” to help “prepare” Black students for when they get sent to jail as adults. A middle school student told a Black classmate to pick a shirt off the floor because it was made of cotton — or else the classmate would “lynch” the Black student. Students said they have been called the n-word by classmates or they heard others use the word at school, while some Asian students said they have been called “chink” and students of Middle Eastern descent were called or associated with terrorists.

In some stories, it was teachers or staff who showed racism. Some teachers sorted students into groups based on skin color, made racial jokes and treated students of color worse than their peers, students wrote. The district is working with Nene, Ekene, leaders of the schools’ Black Student Unions and others to pursue several reforms designed to halt racism that officials say has grown on its campuses in recent years.

Gateway Foundation

The closure of schools due to COVID-19 is expected to result in a widening of the already existing achievement gap between students from low-income families and/or students of color and students from the middle class and affluent, white families.

In light of the nationwide reckoning with race and the systems of injustice, now is the time to address systemic inequity in our community. We have the opportunity to address the very real, tangible problem of disparities in school performance between white students and students of color here in Santa Barbara County. This problem is surmountable.

African American youth will need extra support this year

This year is going to be especially challenging for African American students. Following the death of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, the loss of so many other Black lives at the hands of police, and the groundswell of protests in support of the Movement for Black Lives throughout the county, the emotions are running high for everyone around issues of race and justice. After three months of nationwide protests and demands for changes in policing, African American students are feeling the weight of these issues. We hope to see an increased awareness among the broader community for the lived experience of African Americans, but unfortunately, we also know from experience to expect a backlash against African American students from some. At this emotional time, we aim to provide mentorship and support to African American students through our educational programming. As two African American women, we understand the challenges of being Black in this community.

Individualized tutoring to support African American students

Objectives for the Services Expansion in Lompoc: (Pilot year 2021-2022)

- Provide 20 African American/Black students (3rd-7th grade) in Lompoc, with the tools to reach grade equivalency.
- All tutoring will be online for the 2020-2021 academic year with the goal of in-person tutoring for the 2021-2022 year.
- Provide parents with the road map to advocate and support their children.
- Increase parent engagement

Outcomes

- Each student is assessed in reading, math, and writing. Then, we identify the areas of challenge.
- Each student will receive 80 hours of individualized tutoring over seven (7) months in the 2020-2021 school year January to July
- The goal is for students to reach grade equivalency by 2022 (second year of services)

The First Step is assessing the needs of students

Parent Survey: The first step is to talk to parents.

We will document their stories and gain an understanding of what their children need and what roadblocks they face.

Engagement: We will host a virtual town hall to share our results of the survey and collect more input from parents, teachers, and students

Students Gains

We will evaluate success by assessing the students before and after the six (6) months of tutoring. At the end of the six (6) months, we expect all students will make a 15% to 20% gain.

Teacher Support Providers (TSPs)

The TSPs created a “shopping list” of great ideas for staff to use their \$500 COVID funds that also meet the requirements of the funding source. By no means is the list all inclusive, but teachers had asked for some ideas of items that would be beneficial for their instruction as a launching point. The TSPs worked collectively with teachers, principals, and District administrators to come up with items that were then categorized by elementary, middle and high school.

In addition, the TSPs visited sixty-three (63) classrooms this week to provide support for our newly hired teachers.

Some highlights:

This week I was able to expand my “office hours” and create a time for my special education teachers and regular education teachers. I had the largest turnout this week during the special education time and had a teacher email me this morning saying, “I thought yesterday’s meeting was very informative, and we had some great collaboration.” I’m pleased to provide and facilitate the opportunity for new teachers to collaborate with each other.

The highlight of my week is the shared interest of many teachers (the topic of multiple one on one meetings) in implementing student self-assessment. Considering the effect size of self-reported grades/student expectations (1.44) (Hattie, 2017), it is purposeful to collaborate on innovative

ways to hold high expectations and encourage students to invest in their learning by practicing self-assessment.

Attendance

The state requires teachers to verify their attendance weekly. For many years, LUSD has been complying by having each teacher provide a wet signature for each class. During distance learning this has become more difficult. We have been working with IT to be able to use DocuSign (an electronic signature program) to allow teachers to sign electronically. The state is allowing LEAs to do this for the short term. After we put the DocuSign program into place, we will then apply through the state for permission to use electronic signatures starting next year. This process takes several months to complete so we were very happy to learn we can use DocuSign this year to help the teachers and the attendance clerks in order to streamline the process. A few schools will try this next week and following that, sites will receive formal training so all schools can start in two weeks.

Foster Youth/Homeless

On Wednesday, October 28, LUSD staff was part of a professional development opportunity in conjunction with Santa Barbara County and held the inaugural Youth Empowerment Summit. Father Greg Boyle was the guest speaker along with several other wonderful presentations for our youth, education staff, parents, and community members.

One of the requirements of the Santa Barbara County Education Office Foster Youth/Homeless Department is to have a needs assessment of all districts every five years. This year is LUSD's year for our needs assessment and Student Support Services Solutions will be conducting the evaluation. Next week, each site administrator along with their liaison or other staff will meet to discuss how their site support our Foster Youth and homeless. After the needs assessment is completed, we hope to gain knowledge of how we can better support our students and families.

CTE

CTE teacher one-on-one meetings are ongoing in order to ensure their programs are supported and plans for their budgets for next term. Items that are necessary to support distance learning will be purchased right away.

M&O Update

We have contracted a leak-detection crew and are awaiting their arrival for the gas line work at La Honda. In the interim, we have been made aware of another infrastructure leak, this one at the water main in front of Miguelito. As details of that shut-down and subsequent repair become transparent, we will share them accordingly. The Maintenance Direct on-line platform lists 312 open work orders today. Between October 22 and October 29, LUSD staff has closed out 47 completed work orders.

Below is an update on the status of construction projects that are in progress or soon to commence in the District:

- The B2-21 gas line replacement project at Clarence Ruth is still awaiting receipt of material submittals. Yesterday, we conducted a final walk of the site with representatives from AE Group, our Mechanical Engineer of Record, Seamair, and Z.

Abrego, our Inspector of Record. We expect to receive those submittals today and are still planning to commence this four-week project on Monday, November 2, 2020.

- We have received material submittals for the B3-21 concrete pad, fencing, and gate project outside of Cabrillo's weight room. Review and return of submittals will be complete by Friday, and the six-week project is expected to begin Monday, November 2, 2020. In conjunction with this project, on November 9, 2020, we will be conducting a pre-construction meeting with TD Sports for the installation of outdoor athletic surfacing atop of this soon to be poured cement pad. Assuming the B3-21 project incurs no schedule delays, and the pour is complete by November 24, curing time would allow for TD Sports to begin installations six weeks later, the first week of January.
- On Monday we completed a pre-construction meeting with Allied Fence for the LHS black chain-link fencing and drive-through gate project. This fencing will bridge the gap adjacent to the access road where the BDI Track and Field project stopped with new black chain-link fencing, and where the Black Iron Fencing at the field west of the stadium begins. We expect that Allied Fence will begin this project just after the Thanksgiving holidays, and be complete by December 9.
- This afternoon, we are conducting a kick-off meeting and site walk with representatives from Flowers and Associates, Lash Construction, and ABM to begin preparing plans for the replacement of much of the dangerous asphalt located in the Education Center and Central Services complex. As details of this upcoming project become transparent, we will share those out accordingly.
- The exterior LED lighting project is moving along just ahead of our schedule. Crews are now working at Miguelito and soon will be moving to La Cañada.
- The portable classroom occupancy sensor project is on its final leg of installations and LUSD staff are working collaboratively with the installers to work out programming bugs.
- The irrigation sub-metering project is also on its last leg of installations, and today, staff from our M&O department, ABM, and Smith Mechanical are completing punch inspections of the school sites where the work is complete.
- The plumbing fixture replacement project is ahead of schedule by approximately six workdays. Today, the crew has begun work inside the Education Center and surrounding complex. After today, the crew will not be returning to this complex until Wednesday, November 4, and expects to be complete at this site the following day.
- The furnace replacement work at Vandenberg Middle School will be completed on Wednesday. On Monday, the crew from Smith Mechanical plans to mobilize personnel and equipment into the Ed Center to begin replacing inefficient furnaces inside of the Education Center.

Thank you for your support.

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools