

LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LosAl@Home Elementary Semester II Placement Survey

Frequently Asked Questions – November 18, 2020

To view the overview presentation about the survey [click here](#).

Why is the option being given for families to give a placement preference for second semester?

The District has communicated since August that there would be an opportunity for LosAl@Home families to indicate preference for the second semester. This plan has been outlined in all board workshops since August and documented in the [FAQ from August 2020](#).

Offering the mid-year survey was in response to a multitude of community members advocating for an opportunity to potentially transition back to on-campus learning for the second semester. The sentiment from the community in the summer was that a full-year commitment was too much to ask. Although, we are facilitating the interest survey, there is still no guarantee that any placement requests will be able to be honored, which was documented in the August FAQ. Our goal as a District is to analyze the placement survey requests and grant those that can be fulfilled through placement in open seats in current on-campus classrooms or through reallocating classroom staffing in LosAl@Home.

[Taken from August 2020 FAQ]

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 requests, 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.

Why is the survey taking place eight weeks before the start of the second semester on February 1, 2020?

The District needs adequate time to analyze the survey results and make needed staffing changes. With the winter recess, December 21 - January 1, there is only four weeks of time to complete the analysis and make master schedule changes so that families can be notified of final placement decisions by January 15 and have a two-week notice of a potential school change.

If my preference is for my child to return to the traditional pathway is our family committing to the hybrid schedule or a full-day schedule? Families who prefer to return to the traditional pathway are committing to both the hybrid and the full-day schedule as the learning schedule could change during the second semester for on-campus students.

What are the elementary hybrid and full day schedules?

All learning schedules can be found in the [District Opening & Safety Plan](#).

If my request to return to on-campus instruction is granted and schools are operating in the hybrid model, which cohort will my child be placed in?

Students could be placed in either cohort and the District is not accepting cohort placement requests. Siblings at the same school site will have a priority to be placed in same cohort, but this can't be guaranteed. Siblings at different school sites may or may not end up in the same cohort.

Why would a student who remains in LosAl@Home potentially have a new teacher for the second semester? Please see the [overview presentation](#). Multiple examples were given to illustrate why a student could have a different teacher for second semester.

Can I change my mind once I receive the District placement email on January 15? No, the placement verification email that families receive on January 15 is final. Staffing changes will have been made to make all requests that were granted possible. The placement preference indicated via the survey which closes on December 4 is final. Any LosAl@Home family that doesn't complete the placement survey will remain enrolled in LosAl@Home.

Regardless of my student's second semester placement will my student be able to return to their regular school of attendance for the 2021-2022 school year? Yes, all students will be guaranteed to return to their regular school of attendance for the 2021-2022 school year.

Will students who choose to remain in LosAl@Home be allowed to participate in their regular school of attendance end-of-year activities? Yes, all LosAl@Home students will be able to participate in on-campus extracurricular activities if the county health guidelines and cohorting guidelines allow outside participants.

