

# LOSAL@HOME

## LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Common Distance Learning Terms

**Synchronous Instruction** - the teacher is present or “live” at the same time as the learner(s) providing instruction and engaging students in the learning process.

**Asynchronous Instruction** - the teacher, the learner, and other participants are not engaged in the learning process at the same time. Students learn on their own time and schedule, engaging with assigned content from the teacher.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **WHEN CAN STUDENTS ENROLL?**

Enrollment information and documents are available on the LosAl@Home website.

#### **HOW DOES LOSAL@HOME DIFFER FROM WHAT MY REGULAR SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE MAY OFFER TO STUDENTS REMOTELY THIS SCHOOL YEAR?**

The LosAl@Home Program is for families interested in committing to a year-long distance learning environment for their student. Students who participate in LosAl@Home will be removed from the roster of their regular school of attendance to participate in the LosAl@Home distance learning model for the entirety of the 2020-21 school year.

All nine schools in the Los Alamitos Unified School District MAY, at some time during the 2020-21 school year, offer remote instruction to students to abide by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines for reopening schools. This offer of remote instruction will be temporary, and only offered as long as necessary to meet CDPH reopening guidelines for schools.

LosAl@Home will offer students a **full-year distance learning experience** and the remote learning that is offered at the nine Los Al USD schools will only be offered as long as required by county and state health officials. Students who remain rostered to a traditional Los Al USD school will participate in on-campus learning during the 2020-21 school year when schools are able to reopen in accordance with county/state health guidelines. LosAl@Home students will remain in the distance learning program all year.

#### **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 was granted we cannot guarantee that it would be at a 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 plan to address as many requests as possible why 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. A survey was sent out to families in late November to ascertain their preference for Semester 2. Here are the instructions to complete this survey:

To submit the learning pathway preference for your student, log into AERIES (<http://parent.losal.org/>) with your parent account. If you need assistance with accessing your parent account, please email [technologyhelpdesk@losal.org](mailto:technologyhelpdesk@losal.org). A [video guide](#) for how to submit the pathway preference for your student(s) in addition to a [pdf guide](#) is available to support the completion of the preference survey.

Both guides will walk you through the steps of entering the pathway preference for your student(s). If your family has opted to use the new AERIES layout, the second half of each guide repeats the process using the updated version of AERIES. **If you have multiple children attending school in LosAl@Home, please make sure to repeat the pathway preference process for each of your children.**

**IF MY STUDENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE ENROLLED IN A SPORT OR PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM BUT I CHOOSE TO HAVE THEM ENROLL WITH THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM, CAN THEY COME ON CAMPUS FOR JUST THAT CLASS/PRACTICE?**

Performing arts and Athletic courses will not be offered through the LosAl@Home program. Meaning, there will not be graduation units issued for these courses. Students will not be able to come to the physical campus for single courses during the day. After school, extracurricular activities and Fall athletics conditioning and workouts are open for LosAl@Home students to participate in, depending upon individual coach/program.

**IF MY CHILD IS ENROLLED IN THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM, MAY I UNENROLL THEM AT ANY TIME TO SWITCH TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL?**

Yes. Parents have the ability to unenroll their student from a Los Alamitos Unified School District school or program at any time.

**WHAT DOES THE DAILY SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?**

At the secondary level the LosAl@Home program will follow the same schedule as the traditional on-campus programs. If/when their daily schedules shift, so too will the LosAl@Home program's daily schedule.

At the elementary level, schedules were lengthened to further support student achievement. These new schedules can be found [here](#). There are no more anticipated schedule changes for the LosAl@Home program.

**AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL, HOW DO DAILY MINUTES COMPARE BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL PATHWAY AND THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM?**

**School Minutes Comparison**  
**Traditional Pathway Full-Day Schedule vs. LosAl@Home Learning Schedule**  
 (Grade 4 Example)

	<b>Traditional Pathway</b>	<b>LosAl@Home</b>
Weekly Synchronous Minutes	945 – 1,245*	800 – 950*
Weekly Asynchronous Minutes	65	400
Weekly Total Student Minutes	1,010 – 1,310*	1,150 – 1,300*
Weekly Total Teacher Minutes	1,925	1,925

*\*Weekly minutes vary depending upon assignment of students for flexible grouping*

**Traditional Pathway – Sample Schedule\* (Grade 4/Cohort A)**

School Start (M-T-W-Th-F)*	8:00AM
School End (M-T-Th-F)*	2:10PM
School End (W)*	10:55AM
Minute Deductions	Recess: 15 minutes Lunch: 65 minutes* Cohort Transition: 15 minutes
Flexible Grouping**	60 minutes (30 Math/30 ELA)

*\*Each elementary school may have slightly different start and end times and facilitate lunch slightly different*

*\*\*Estimation of flexible grouping time in a traditional classroom*

**LosAl@Home Grade 4 Pathway Schedule**

	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>	<b>Total Minutes</b>
<b>Whole Class</b>	8:00	9:00	60
<b>Transition</b>	9:00	9:05	5
<b>Group A</b>	9:05	9:50	45
<b>Transition</b>	9:50	9:55	5
<b>Group B</b>	9:55	10:40	45
<b>BREAK</b>	10:40	10:45	5
<b>Transition</b>	10:45	10:50	5
<b>Group A</b>	10:50	11:35	45
<b>Transition</b>	11:35	11:40	5
<b>Group B</b>	11:40	12:25	45
<b>Transition</b>	12:25	12:30	5
<b>Flexible Group</b>	12:30	1:00	30

**Per Student Daily Live Teaching (Synchronous)**  
 60-minute (Whole Group)  
 50-min Half/Class ELA  
 50-min Half/Class Math

<b>Synchronous Instruction (67%)</b>	DAILY: 160- minutes WEEKLY: 800-minutes
<b>Asynchronous Instruction (33%)</b>	DAILY: 80 minutes WEEKLY: 400-minutes

**WHAT DOES ONLINE LEARNING IN LOSAL@HOME LOOK LIKE?**

LosAl@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 video conferencing sessions with their teachers and peers at specific times designated in the LosAl@Home schedule. The curriculum and learning supports are the same Los Al learning tools provided in traditional classrooms, updated for an online format.

**WILL THE YOUNGEST STUDENTS BE EXPECTED TO ONLINE FOR THE ENTIRE BLOCK OF CLASS TIME?**

All of our teachers are highly experienced and understand the different learning needs for students at different grade levels. Teachers will have the ability to structure their synchronous learning activities to best align with their student needs. The sample schedule provided will include brain breaks, offer diverse learning strategies and incorporate physical activity to support all students.

**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, eighth grade students who were previously scheduled to take a class at Los Alamitos High School will still have access to those courses through LosAl@Home.

**IS PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT REQUIRED FOR LOSAL@HOME STUDENTS?**

Yes, daily parent/guardian involvement is essential for *LosAl@Home* student success. The amount of parent/guardian support needed for student success will vary from student to student and decrease at the higher grade levels. The youngest LosAl@Home students (TK-3), will require more parent/guardian support to be successful in a distance learning program.

**ARE HIGH SCHOOL COURSES A-G and NCAA APPROVED?**

Yes, classes are A-G and NCAA approved.

**ARE ALL ELECTIVE CLASSES OFFERED TO (6-12) STUDENTS?**

Elective courses will be offered, but may be different than what is offered at a student's regular school of attendance. Not all elective courses offered at Oak, McAuliffe and Los Alamitos High School will be offered through LosAl@Home. There will be elective courses offered for 9-12 students that meet a-g elective requirements, including fine arts.

**ARE ADVANCED PLACEMENT (A.P.) COURSES OFFERED?**

Yes, ALL Advanced Placement courses currently offered at the High School will be offered through LosAl@Home. Dr. Lopour and the LosAl@Home team will work with guidance counselors and families to maximize course availability. However depending on total student enrollment some AP

courses may be offered through varied delivery models. Specifics regarding AP courses and course delivery models can be addressed with your student's academic counselor.

### **WILL HONORS CLASSES BE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM?**

All core English, Math, Social Science, and Science courses will be offered to students at LosAl@Home. Honors courses will also be available. Based on student enrollment, there may be courses with both honors and non-honors students in the same virtual space. Teachers will differentiate curriculum in the course to meet the needs of both types of students.

### **IS IT PERMISSIBLE FOR ONE STUDENT IN A FAMILY TO CHOOSE THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM WHILE THEIR SIBLING CHOOSES TO ATTEND THE HYBRID OR TRADITIONAL OPTION?**

Yes, families can select the schooling pathway they feel is best for each child.

### **WILL STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATE IN LOSAL@HOME, NEED TO ATTEND LIVE ONLINE INSTRUCTION DAILY?**

Yes, students enrolled in LosAl@Home will have set live instruction time daily that students will be expected to participate in, or they will be considered absent.

### **WILL STUDENTS THAT CHOOSE THE LOSAL@HOME DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM, ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS, LIKE DANCES AND GRADUATION?**

Yes, all LosAl@Home students will be able to participate in on-campus after school extracurricular activities.

### **HOW WERE TEACHERS FOR LOSAL@HOME CHOSEN?**

All LosAl@Home teachers are highly qualified teachers in the Los Alamitos Unified School District. All LosAl@Home teachers have been selected based on a variety of criteria including their ability to provide engaging online learning experiences and to effectively deliver online content.

### **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.

## **WHO ARE THE LOSAL@HOME TEACHERS? WILL MY STUDENT BE IN CLASS(ES) WITH STUDENTS FROM THEIR REGULAR SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE?**

LosAl@Home will be taught by Los Al USD teachers from across the nine school sites.

(TK-5) Elementary classes may have a mix of students from different elementary schools, depending upon enrollment. The goal is to form classes as similar to the traditional school classroom as possible, which includes the possibility of combination classes of mixed-grade level students.

(6-8) Middle school courses will be composed of students from both Oak and McAuliffe Middle Schools .

(9-12) High school classes will only be students from Los Alamitos High School.

## **WHAT CURRICULUM WILL BE USED IN LOSAL@HOME?**

LosAl@Home classes follow the traditional Los Al Unified curricular scope and sequence and use District-adopted curriculum.

## **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ATTEND?**

LosAl@Home is a free distance learning program offered to Los Al Unified District students, operated by the Los Alamitos Unified District. There is no tuition.

## **WHAT TECHNOLOGY DO STUDENTS NEED?**

- Computer/Laptop (With Web Camera and Microphone)
- High Speed Internet Connection
- Printer (Recommended)

\*If a student does not have access to the above resources please contact your regular school of attendance for device check-out.

## **WHAT WILL BE DONE IF THERE ARE TECHNOLOGY ISSUES DURING CLASS SESSIONS?**

As part of the classroom management protocols for all LosAl@Home teachers, contingency plans regarding technology issues will be developed and communicated with students and families. All LosAl@Home teachers will make time available (via office time, etc.) for students to check-in with their teachers in case any connectivity issues occur. Also, during the first week of instruction, teachers will carefully monitor students' connectivity capabilities and technology needs. Students with consistent technology issues can check out laptop and mobile wifi hotspots.

## **DO STUDENTS RECEIVE GRADES?**

Yes, students will receive the same report cards, grades and citizenship marks as other students in the Los Alamitos Unified School District, in accordance with District grading periods. In addition, all grades will be permanent on pupil records and/or high school transcripts.

- (TK-2) Numeric Marks of 1-4 on Standards Based Report Card
- (3-12) Letter Achievement Grades (A-F)

### **WILL THERE BE A “HOLD-HARMLESS GRADING” POLICY AS THERE WAS IN SPRING LAST SCHOOL YEAR?**

No, students will be held to the traditional grading standards normally in place during an academic year.

### **WILL THERE BE REGULAR TEXTBOOKS OR WILL TEXTBOOKS BE ONLINE?**

Course materials will be provided by the district for the student. The materials needed for each course/class vary and may include both hard copies and digital.

### **WILL PARENTS GET COURSE SYLLABI?**

The Schools PLP learning platform provides parents with a “one-stop” dashboard that will clearly show students’ academic progress, assignments, and current grades. Teachers will provide families with a course syllabus and parents will be able to access students’ daily instruction through the Schools PLP platform.

### **WILL THERE BE SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL INTERACTION FOR MY STUDENT IN THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM?**

There will be significant time devoted to live daily interactions in every course/class offered through the LosAl@Home program. There will be regular opportunities for students to work in large groups, small groups, on collaborative projects, and other arrangements to encourage social interaction.

### **WILL CLUBS BE OFFERED THROUGH THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM?**

There are extracurricular clubs offered through the LosAl@Home program. This is based on staffing and student interest/need.

### **WILL LOSAL@HOME STUDENTS BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL DANCES, PROMOTION CEREMONIES, SENIOR ACTIVITIES, ETC.?**

Once schoolwide activities are allowed to commence at traditional schoolsites, LosAl@Home students will be able to attend those activities as long as they remain in good standing and take necessary health precautions. 8th graders will be allowed to participate in their promotion ceremony, and seniors will be able to walk at graduation.



## **WILL ENROLLMENT IN LOSAL@HOME AFFECT MY STUDENT'S INTERDISTRICT PERMIT?**

There will be no impacts on interdistrict permits due to enrollment in LosAl@Home.

## **HOW OFTEN DO STUDENTS ATTEND CLASSES OR CHECK-IN?**

Students attend daily live instruction and will be marked absent and tardy in accordance with their participation. Attendance records will remain permanent on students' pupil records. Parents and/or guardians are still legally responsible for school attendance and will be subject to a School Attendance and Review Board hearing should attendance fall below minimum state requirements. The Los Alamitos Unified School District will regularly inform parents and guardians of pupil attendance records.

## **WILL THE LOSAL@HOME PROGRAM FOLLOW THE SAME SCHEDULE AS THE THE DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL FOR THE TRADITIONAL SCHOOLING PATHWAY?**

An updated schedule will always be posted on the LosAl@Home Website.

## **CAN A STUDENT WITH AN IEP PLAN ENROLL IN LOSAL@HOME?**

Yes, students in special education may participate in *LosAl@Home* if their IEP goals and services can be provided in a distance learning program. An IEP team meeting may need to take place to determine viability of participation and needed modifications to current IEP goals, services and supports.

Please contact Rakhee Comar, Coordinator of Special Education & Mental Health, if your student is on an IEP and is interested in participating in the LosAl@Home Distance Learning Program.

[Rcomar@losal.org](mailto:Rcomar@losal.org)

## **CAN A STUDENT WITH A 504 PLAN ENROLL IN LOSAL@HOME?**

Yes, a student on a 504 plan may participate in LosAl@Home. It may be necessary to reconvene the 504 team at the start of the school year to discuss and reevaluate 504 accommodations.

## **I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS THAT ARE NOT ANSWERED HERE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

There is a form linked here: [LosAl@Home Parent Questions Form](#). You should receive a response within two business days.