

May 28, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

As we approach the end of this long and tumultuous school year, I have some updates about next year to share with you.

First, I would like to reiterate that we will be providing full-time, in-person instruction beginning August 16 (the first day of the 2021-22 school year). While we have announced this several times since early April, this decision was formalized in a **Resolution to Resume Full-Time In-Person Instruction in All AUSD Schools** that was passed unanimously by the Board of Education at its May 25 public meeting.

Clearly, if there is a spike in COVID-19 cases this summer that results in public health orders restricting in-person instruction, we will need to comply and adjust our program. But at this time we are fully planning to return to normal schedules and operations next year. We will share information about our planned safety protocols once the state has provided school districts with those guidelines.

Second, school districts across the state are now receiving both state and federal funding to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Those funds come with set criteria for how they can be spent, as well as deadlines for completing the expenditures. After two discussions at public meetings ([May 11](#) and [May 25](#)), the Board of Education voted to approve a list of expenditures for one state grant for COVID funding. Those expenditures include mental health and other student support services, Personal Protective Equipment, HVAC improvements on two schools, classroom supplies, and technology.

AUSD had only a few weeks to send its plan for using the grant to the California Department of Education, so it relied on feedback from the public collected from numerous public engagement sessions over the last year, including surveys, town halls, Community Advisory Committee meetings, and meetings with staff, students, and families. As we receive more state and federal COVID funding this summer and fall, we will provide more engagement opportunities so that we can align our school return plans with our long-range Strategic Plan.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of you a quiet and relaxing Memorial Day Weekend. I know all of us have gone through a lot over the last year, and I hope this brief respite gives you renewed energy for the rest of the school year.

Sincerely,

Pasquale Scuderi  
Superintendent