

AUSD and AEA Sign Tentative Agreement for Re-Opening Secondary Schools

Alameda, Calif. — Tuesday, March 23, 2021 — The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) and the Alameda Education Association (AEA) have signed a Tentative Agreement (TA) for re-opening secondary schools for in-person hybrid instruction.

In order to allow time for both parties to ratify the agreement and work out some logistics specific to secondary schools, the district will be asking to move the first day of in-person instruction for secondary students to early to mid April.

The district and the AEA (which represents teachers, nurses, speech and language pathologists, and counselors) ratified an MOU on reopening elementary schools earlier this month.

The MOU signed today outlines the safety precautions that need to be taken before staff and students can return to campus, including daily health screenings for all employees and students, COVID-19 testing, personal protective equipment, handwashing and/or sanitizing equipment and supplies, cleaning and disinfection, directional and distancing signs, and upgraded ventilation and air filtering in school buildings.

The next step is for AEA members and the Board of Education to vote on ratification of the Tentative Agreement. The Board of Education will vote on the TA at a meeting in early April. AEA will vote through April 6.

“We are pleased to confirm our coming to agreement with the AEA on this series of MOUs that lay out our safety plans and protocols,” says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi. “This development represents another deliberate and careful step toward opening our doors to in-person instruction for all students and progressively building toward the most comprehensive and safe return to campuses possible. We have to have these MOUs with our labor partners in order to open; getting them in place allows us to open the doors to our campuses and in-person instruction again.”

AUSD and CSEA-27 (which represents office/technical workers and paraprofessionals) have also ratified MOUs for re-opening.

“These MOUs have been an enormous amount of work for our Bargaining Team and Executive Board, the members of whom are all classroom teachers volunteering on top of their normal teaching load,” says AEA President Judith Klinger. “Their talent has allowed us

to develop systems and agreements to reduce reopening risks to our staff, students, and families. This is what will allow us to open with confidence and stay open with confidence. We appreciate the patience of our members, our families and the community at large while this work has gone on.”

“I continue to thank the AUSD and AEA teams for their hard work,” Board President Mia Bonta says. “The district has long been committed to bringing students and teachers back to campus for in-person instruction. As a board we are delighted to see us making progress in that direction.”

AUSD began procuring safety supplies and developing safety protocols, all of which are aligned with public health guidance and mandates, last summer. The measures are detailed in the [AUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) and summarized in Superintendent Scuderi’s [Safety Briefing for Staff](#).