

AUSD and AEA Ratify MOU for Elementary Re-Opening

Teams turn focus now to negotiating secondary MOU

Alameda, Calif. — Thursday, March 11, 2021 — The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) and the Alameda Education Association (AEA) have both ratified an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for re-opening elementary schools for in-person, hybrid instruction.

AEA officially ratified the MOU on March 5; the Board of Education ratified it at its March 9 Board of Education meeting.

The MOU outlines the safety precautions that need to be taken before elementary 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.

Schedules are not part of the MOU, as teachers don't have the right to bargain them.

"It is extremely gratifying to have this MOU in place," says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi. "It is a clear evidence that we can find common ground with our labor partners and that slowly but steadily we will be able to bring AUSD students back to campuses."

Last month, the Board of Education and AEA also ratified an MOU that sets out the terms for providing in-person instruction and support to small groups of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The two teams will now turn to developing an MOU for the reopening of our secondary programs (grades 6-12).

"I'd like to emphasize that the elementary members voted 88% to 12% to approve this MOU," says AEA President Judith Klinger. "The teachers are excited to see their students in-person and are glad we were able to bargain the requisite safety precautions that allow them to do so. These are professionals who love their students and love teaching in person."

"I would like to thank the AUSD and AEA teams again for the hard work they put into negotiations," Board President Mialisa Bonta says. "I am incredibly excited to see our elementary students return to their campuses next week."