

January 15, 20201

Dear Families,

At its January 12 public meeting, the Board of Education approved target dates for re-opening our schools based on current public health metrics and mandates.

Our current goal is to:

- Begin offering small group support to students on February 1.
- Open TK-5 on March 8 (if public health conditions allow)

If public health metrics don't match the county/state criteria for re-opening by our February 9 board meeting, we will either maintain a course toward March 8 or move the re-opening date to March 29.

If, as of our March 9 Board of Education meeting, we still don't meet the state and county criteria for re-opening, we will aim to open our elementary schools by March 29 and make a decision to keep middle and high schools in distance learning throughout the rest of the year.

We realize that many of our students are struggling, and many of our families are frustrated that we haven't yet opened on our campuses. We have tremendous empathy for what you and your children are experiencing during this pandemic. We want to make it very clear, however, that *AUSD cannot open its schools until current public health conditions match the criteria set by our county and state departments of health. To underscore, the public health criteria for reopening schools is set by state and county public health directives not individual school districts.*

Specifically, under current state guidelines, schools cannot open while we are in the Purple Tier, which is in part characterized by a case rate of 7 cases per 100,000 people.

In his new "Safe Schools for All" plan, the governor proposed this week that schools be allowed to open if the case rate is under 25 cases per /100,000 residents, which certainly expands the window of opportunity. Currently, however, the case rate in Alameda County is 41 cases per 100,000 residents, which means that we are not qualified to open under either the existing or proposed guidelines.

The state released other significantly revised guidelines on Thursday of this week as well. We are sorting through those guidelines, working out what new tasks we need to undertake, what new criteria we need to meet, and how long it will take AUSD staff to

complete that work. We plan to provide a comprehensive update on these new guidelines and AUSD's response to them by the end of next week.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi
Superintendent