

AUSD and AEA Sign Tentative Agreement for Re-Opening
New opening date is March 15

MOU for small group supports ratified last week

Alameda, Calif. — Wednesday, February 24, 2021 — The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) and the Alameda Education Association (AEA) have signed a Tentative Agreement (TA) for re-opening elementary schools for in-person hybrid instruction.

With the signing of this TA, AUSD is now one of only a few public school districts in Alameda County that has met the prerequisites for reopening schools. In order to allow time for both parties to ratify the agreement and complete some final operational components, the district has moved the first day of in-person instruction to March 15.

The district and the AEA (which represents teachers, nurses, speech and language pathologists, and counselors) have been negotiating about how best to re-open during the pandemic since November 2020.

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 TA. The negotiation teams will now focus on an MOU for the reopening of our secondary programs (6-12).

“In a year of innumerable challenges, this agreement clears the path to the first phases of in-person learning for our elementary students,” says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi, “and I am gratified that the two bargaining teams have come to agreement on opening safely for our elementary students and staff.”

Last week, both the Board of Education and AEA 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. AUSD and CSEA-27 (which represents office/technical workers and paraprofessionals) has ratified MOUs both for re-opening in-person instruction and for small groups. CSEA-860 (which represents custodians, maintenance, and food service employees) has been working in person even while the schools are in distance learning.

"I would like to thank both the AUSD and AEA teams for their persistent efforts to come to an agreement about both small groups and a general re-opening for TK through 5th grade," Board President Mialisa Bonta says. "We know these long months of distance learning have been hard on many students, families, and staff. Today the goal of re-opening our schools feels in reach, and that is incredibly good news."

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](#).