

May 18, 2020

Dear Families,

My message to you comes in a [video and slide presentation](#) again tonight. As these are important updates, I am also adding my primary points in the body of this email so that families whose first language is not English can receive the information in their preferred language.

1. The Board of Education voted unanimously today to end the 2019-20 school year on May 29 rather than June 8. The reason for the change is that due to the ongoing pandemic, we believe AUSD will need to provide some combination of on-line instruction and in-person instruction next year. As such, we believe that using the last six days of schools to plan, prepare, and train on best practices for online learning will provide more value than continuing with distance learning.

Please see our [FAQ](#) about the shortened calendar year for more information.

2. In the meantime, we will continue to provide services to students and families, including meal service and mental health services, as well as the opportunities to engage in distance learning and improve grades.

3. As we work on that program for next year, we are still considering three scenarios: online learning, in-person instruction (with some modifications), and a blended model. We are convening a task force to explore these preliminary models with stakeholders and will be sending a survey to families next week to solicit input. Our goal is to bring a preliminary proposal to the Board of Education on June 9 and have a final plan by late June.

4. Governor Newsom released his revised state budget for 2020-21 last week. The budget includes unprecedented cuts to the entire budget, including public schools. Although the budget hasn't yet been finalized, we are currently expecting to receive about \$9 million less than we expected for next year. This is too much to be handled in cuts alone; we believe this is a time for serious advocacy for more relief from the federal government. I am not trying to alarm you but to be as transparent and honest as possible and let you know we may need to make some challenging fiscal decisions in the next 18-24 months.

We'll have more information about our learning models for next year, our calendar, and our budget this in the coming weeks. I hope all of you are staying healthy and well.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi