6 Pillars to Successfully Reopen Our Schools

May 20, 2020

Natomas Unified School District

Connecting students to their future

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Assumptions

- COVID-19 will will likely exist until a vaccine is created.
- A vaccine could be in wide use within a year to or a year and a half
- Discussions about the potential of a “second wave” vary from source to source, but it is generally believed that targeted school or temporary district closures may be necessary in 2020-21
- Students deserve the best, equitable and safe education
- Early start begins in 2 months, full reopen 11 weeks…as we have learned these past 9 weeks, a lot can change in that time

With these initial assumptions in mind, as of May 20, 2020…

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The Approach for Moving Forward

This presentation outlines, at a high-level, the approach Natomas Unified is taking for Reopening Physical Schools in 2020-21. Reopening of, and re-entry into school buildings is dependent on a combination of **California/Sacramento County Health guidance** and **a local plan** here in Natomas Unified. This presentation focuses on our local plan. Our Six (6) Pillars provide a path to reopening our physical school campuses. This presentation will NOT answer everyone's questions. It is not intended to. This should show that Natomas Unified has done significant thinking about educating our students and keeping students/staff/families safe. And that NUSD is making progress...

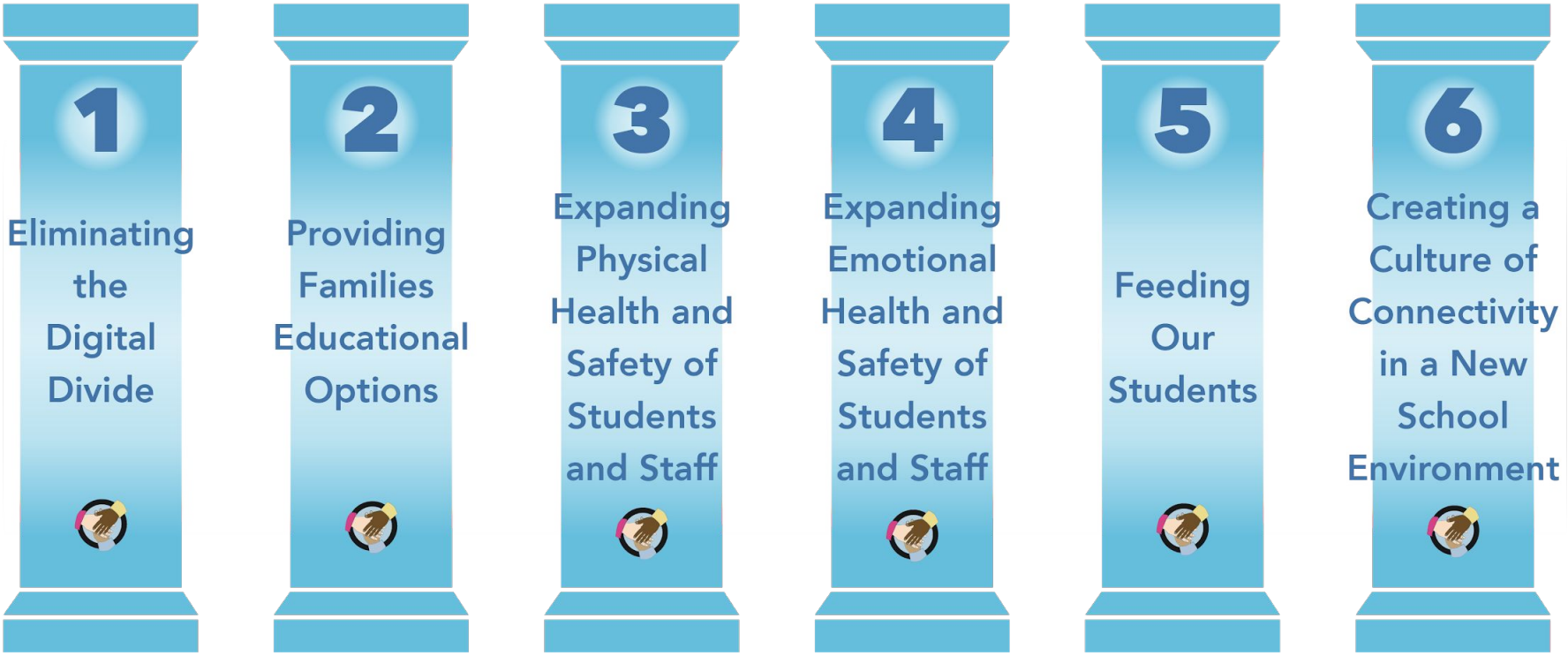
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The Approach for Moving Forward

We cannot promise this will be seamless. It will have bumps. We will be flexible enough to adapt. We have options for families to help them transition from this past spring's distance learning. And if directed/necessary, we have Distance Learning as an option. But this presentation is about if/when we can move past distance learning.

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6 Pillars of Success Status Reopening Our Schools

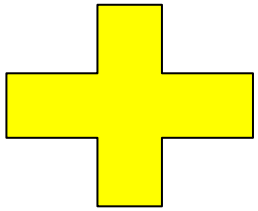


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Checklist Key



Completed/Ready

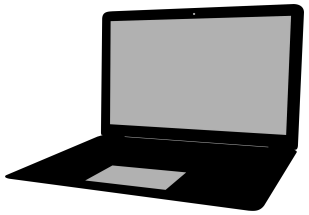


In progress or already started but not complete

1

Eliminating the Digital Divide

Eliminating the Digital Divide



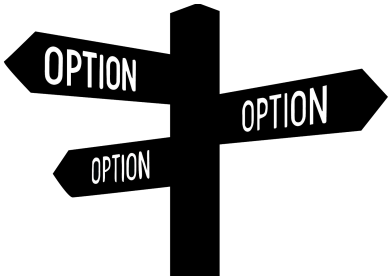
- ☑ We eliminated the digital divide in 2019-2020 and this will continue for 2020-21.
  - ☑ Every student has a Chromebook
  - ☑ Every student w/out home Internet access would have a WiFi Hotspot or Xfinity access with NUSD as “client”
  - ☑ Ongoing tech support for students, families and staff
  - ☑ Equity for our students with tech

2

Providing Families Educational Options



Providing Families Educational Options



As August draws near, NUSD must meet the needs of students and families facing concern and anxiety over their student(s)' safety. Providing options will support students/families, retain enrollment (avoiding further budget cuts from declining enrollment), and mitigate loss of students to regional Independent Study charter schools/programs. Plus traditional full return to "Brick and Mortar" - not likely in Fall

- ☑ Survey families to assess interest in learning more about options (1,196 responded and 75% want to learn more)
- ☑ Independent Study (IS) K-12
- ✚ Virtual/In-class Options *(MOU signed with NTA leaders)*
- ✚ Provide for fluid return to Distance Learning when Health Guidance requires it (school by school OR districtwide) *(MOU signed with NTA leaders)*
- ✚ Elementary (including self-contained 6th grade) has access to IS, Hybrid, and In-Class options to meet social-distancing guidelines and modified secondary schedules to meet social distancing guidelines *(MOU signed with NTA leaders)*
- ☑ Early Start Remediation/Peer Leadership Summer Program (3 weeks) *(signed MOUs with NTA and CSEA leaders)*



3

Expanding Physical Health and Safety of Students and Staff



Expanding Physical Health and Safety of Students and Staff



- Educational options to allow mitigated school/class size for state required social distancing *(MOU signed with NTA leaders)*
- District analysis of site cleanliness options
- Site developed and shared plans that addresses current and anticipated options for social distancing
- Systemic utilization of new cleaning equipment to clean and disinfect our schools frequently
- Teaching students elements of health and hygiene for virus including student peer leaders training at each site
- Providing student cloth masks for those in need
- Continued utilization of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and expand to employees returning to campus (create Personal Staff PPE kits for return)

3

Expanding Physical Health and Safety of Students and Staff



Expanding Physical Health and Safety of Students and Staff



- ☑ Continued utilization of hand sanitizer, soaps, and other hygiene materials
- ❑ Reorganization of recesses
- ❑ Virtually held assemblies, rallies, etc
- ✚ Purchasing portable hand washing stations in case of plumbing challenges during construction
- ❑ Utilization of social distancing ground “stickers”/paint
- ☑ Utilization of multiple meal points of sale
- ✚ Consider lead medical practitioner to drive assessment, testing plan and social emotional reassurance
- ☑ Continue and expand assessment of vulnerable students
- ✚ Assessing vulnerable staff
- ❑ Implement COVID-19 testing for staff and students to manage rumors, determine actions, work in conjunction with Sacramento County Health on decisions (*assistance need from state/regional governments)

Expanding Emotional Health and Safety of Students and Staff



4

Expanding Emotional Health and Safety of Students and Staff

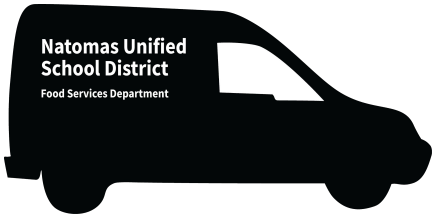


- ✓ Continued Social Emotional Support system for students and staff
- ✓ Added 2 Social Workers to the SES team
- ✓ Increased utilization of virtual counseling, therapy and support as a result of the eliminated digital divide for 2020-21
- ✓ Providing options for families and students to address concerns and potential anxiety as schools return
- ✓ All educational options allow students and families to stay engaged in activities, organizations at their school
- ✚ Implement COVID-19 testing for staff and students to manage rumors, determine actions, work in conjunction with Sacramento County Health on decisions (*assistance need from state/regional governments to acquire tests)
- ✚ Summer social emotional support access program

5

Feeding Our Students

Feeding Our Students



Natomas Unified has demonstrated the ability to provide meals to students and the community during flexible environments. All learning options will still make meals available to all students at the legally required free/reduced lunch options or paid.

- ☑ Feeding students in modified environments

Creating a Culture of Connectivity in a New School Environment



6

Creating a Culture of Connectivity in a New School Environment



- ❑ Consider offering one PTA membership per family paid for by NUSD - virtual access to PTA
- ❑ Students have access to school extracurricular activities regardless of educational option
- ❑ Virtual student activities during school hours (rallies, assemblies, etc.)
- ❑ Expand student government/civics for in-person and virtual engagement, promoting community service in a virtual world
- ❑ Student support programs such as PBIS in-person and virtual (adjust for social distancing, etc)
- ❑ Student recognition for clean hands, social distancing, kindness
- ❑ Encourage virtual study groups as a practice
- ❑ After-school virtual activities funded site by site through SPSA

Creating a Culture of Connectivity in a New School Environment



6

Creating a Culture of Connectivity in a New School Environment



- ✚ Secondary plan for band/music, PE, CTE, drama *(MOU signed with NTA)*
- ❑ Continued virtual After-School and Mentoring programs to provide ongoing support and engagement
- ❑ Secondary plan for athletics
- ❑ Elementary and Middle School Plans for athletics
- ❑ Ongoing engagement (surveys, etc,) of students and families to determine what activities make them feel connected
- ❑ Exploring opportunities for virtual college field trips
- ❑ Continued connections with counseling staff for secondary students for both mental health supports and mentoring

SCHOOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The purpose of this tool is to assist administrators in making (re)opening decisions regarding K-12 schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to check with state and local health officials and other partners to determine the most appropriate actions while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.

Should you consider opening?

- ✓ Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- ✓ Is the school ready to protect children and employees at higher risk for severe illness?
- ✓ Are you able to screen students and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure?

ALL YES →

ANY NO ↓

DO NOT OPEN

Are recommended health and safety actions in place?

- ✓ Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing and employees wearing a cloth face covering, as feasible
- ✓ Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- ✓ Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups, if feasible
- ✓ Train all employees on health and safety protocols

ALL YES →

ANY NO ↓

MEET SAFEGUARDS FIRST

Is ongoing monitoring in place?

- ✓ Develop and implement procedures to check for signs and symptoms of students and employees daily upon arrival, as feasible
- ✓ Encourage anyone who is sick to stay home
- ✓ Plan for if students or employees get sick
- ✓ Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
- ✓ Monitor student and employee absences and have flexible leave policies and practices
- ✓ Be ready to consult with the local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area

ALL YES →

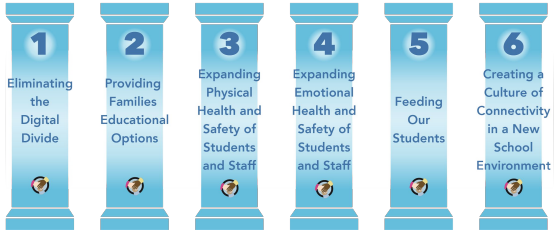
OPEN AND MONITOR

ANY NO ↓

MEET SAFEGUARDS FIRST

CDC

cdc.gov/coronavirus



School Start Date(s)

Early Start Program July 20

Currently scheduled for August 13

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Signed MOUs to Support Reopening

- ❏ May 14th - NTA Virtual Specialized Class Committees
- ❏ May 15th - CSEA Early Start Program
- ❏ May 17th - NTA Early Start Program
- ❏ May 18th - NTA Independent Study
- ❏ May 19th - MOU to discuss Distance Learning and Hybrid options for 2020-21

Thank you to NTA President Brenda Borge, CSEA President Pam Rothwell and their teams for strong collaboration

QUESTIONS