

# PRESS RELEASE

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE  
4675 MISSOURI FLAT ROAD  
PLACERVILLE CA 95667

Contact Information:  
Serena Fuson  
(530) 622-5081 ext. 7225  
[sfuson@eduhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:sfuson@eduhsd.k12.ca.us)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 29, 2020 | El Dorado County, CA

### **2020-21 District's Re-Entry Plan Board Approved on July 28, 2020**

Last night, the Board of Trustees approved in person instruction starting on August 10, 2020 for some student groups but will be starting all schools in the District in the distance learning model for the first quarter only, or sooner if conditions allow. Provided the County is not on the State watch list the District intends to return to in person instruction on October 5, 2020, or sooner if conditions allow consistent with guidance from the State and Federal guidelines and existing safety conditions. As of August 10, 2020, if we remain off the watch list, we will be able to bring small groups of students to campus for limited services and support in August. We are still working on these details. As for athletics, physical conditioning with the approved protocols will continue.

This has been a tumultuous summer of conflicting guidance and unanticipated COVID-19 trends. I have read hundreds of emails that include the adjectives “angry,” “upset,” “frustrated,” and “worried” on all sides of the issues we have to confront. There is no winning this debate, but I can promise you it is even more complex than people realize, and we are doing our level-headed best to find a responsible path forward.

As you know, the County's COVID-19 testing capacity is not sufficient at this time to bring back all school districts and all employees in the County and manage a community outbreak. The County is aggressively seeking additional resources, and I am confident they will have testing capacity this fall. Providers are already being identified and contracts drafted.

There is a priority in both Federal and State guidance to give preference to elementary education over high school aged students. For example, if a County goes on the watch list all high schools must close. Elementary school districts have the opportunity to gain a waiver to stay open. High schools are not given that opportunity based on school openings and experiences across the international community. High schools are larger, have more social interactions and contacts in a day and thus are more susceptible to large outbreaks.

As a result of this difference between elementary school districts and the high school district, we may see some of our local partner K-8 school districts open as testing capacity increases. We plan to open in-person instruction on Monday, October 5, 2020 or sooner if conditions allow.

Distance learning in August and September will not be what you experienced last spring. Gone is Edgenuity. There will be an official class schedule daily to which students are expected to adhere. Each student will receive a minimum of 30 minutes of on-line instruction for each class. There will be daily check-ins with teachers, and we will need your support. Some families in our communities live in locations that do not have any capacity for internet connections. We have plans to support you as well. Please contact your high school administrator for details. We are also working very hard on plans to welcome freshmen to our campuses. Provided we are not on the watch list, communication will be coming out to help freshmen students visit the campus, meet key people and feel ready for when in-person instruction begins again.

Finally, thank you for your patience. This is likely going to be the most unpredictable year for education any of us have faced. The healthy and collaborative partnership we have forged together working through the obstacles of reopening school is the same partnership that will see us through this challenging year. We are in this together and more so now than ever, our students really, really need us working together to step up and help them achieve!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ron Carruth  
Superintendent  
El Dorado Union High School District