

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Delay in Full In Person Instruction

We are writing to update you on the current status of our plans to further increase in-person instruction at our high schools. We realize that COVID-19 cases in El Dorado County remain high and delayed our move to a more normal schedule where all students could attend school four or five days per week. As COVID-19 cases dropped and stabilized in lower tiers, and the vaccine was made available to all staff, we saw a path towards full re-opening. This plan must now be changed due to new regulations from Sacramento.

Just last week, January 14, 2021 the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released the COVID-19 Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California.

This released document provides an updated “public health directive” that applies to all public and private schools in the State of California. Under these executive orders, schools must comply with these guidelines and local School Boards are not granted the authority for local control on reopening conditions.

The significant challenge we have is the new required spacing between student desks. There is no possible way to configure desks in our classrooms and keep student chairs approximately 4 feet apart with approximately 30 students per classroom.

In addition, the document dictates that no choir or band can practice in any indoor facility. Also, the California Department of State Architect does not approve using temporary tents for student housing as an acceptable outside venue. We are awaiting guidance on sports as CIF negotiates with the CDPH on modifying protocols for allowing competitions to take place. We realize the frustrations students and parents have as we see other States providing flexibility that California has not yet allowed. We believe a CIF update will be coming soon on what is approved.

We anticipate that as the vaccine rolls out, these guidelines will have to be revisited and a path to open schools must be responsibly planned. We remain committed to moving to full student instruction on a daily basis, as soon as we can find the path allowed by the CDPH. We hope this guidance changes as the vaccine is administered to staff, those over 65 years old, and those with underlying conditions. We are advocating aggressively for the State to provide a path to close this year out with some degree of normality as cases drop and the community is vaccinated. We should also be prepared for the possibility that our current hybrid schedule may be all the State of California allows this academic year. We will all be watching very carefully and anticipate legislation that provides additional clarity on the path to fully open schools.

Thank you again for your enduring patience as we manage this difficult time together.