



Burbank Unified School District
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Board of Education
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Superintendent
Matt Hill, Ed.D.

23 November 2020

Dear BUSD Families, Students, and Employees:

An alarming increase in COVID cases in L.A. County has hindered our plans to reopen schools in January via a hybrid learning model. This is disappointing news for all of us since we were hopeful we could return students and employees back to campus in January.

According to State guidelines, we must be in the red tier for two weeks to reopen schools. You can read more about the State of California guidelines here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>. For current L.A. County health information, click here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>.

Instead of rearranging class schedules and teacher assignments after the second semester begins, we have decided to **stay in distance learning for the remainder of the school year**. While distance learning will be our core instructional model, we will continue to implement in-person activities as allowable under current health guidelines.

We acknowledge distance learning is not working well for some students. Therefore, we are developing plans to help students with their academics and social-emotional needs. As a reminder, if your child needs mental health assistance, **Burbank Family Service Agency is available 24/7 at 818-845-7671**.

Below is a summary of some additional in-person supports we will provide when health conditions allow:

- **Special Education** – On an optional basis for students and families, we will provide opportunities for in-person assessments and small group instruction.
- **Academic Interventions** – For students who are having academic challenges (D's and F's; 1's and 2's), we will provide in-person academic intervention supports.
- **Extended Child Care** – We have already extended the hours for our child care programs so that they are available during the school day. When space is available, we will provide no-cost seats for socio-economic disadvantaged students, English Learners, foster youth

and homeless youth at our Around the Bell (ATB) program to assist with learning loss. Visit our website at <https://www.burbankusd.org/childcare> for more information.

- **Activities** - When health conditions improve, and in accordance with health guidelines, we will bring students back to campus for extracurricular activities and clubs. This would include end-of-year activities, especially for our seniors, eighth graders, and fifth graders. We also want to provide opportunities for students to meet with their teachers and classmates. We will continue to monitor health guidelines and will implement as many opportunities as we can throughout the second semester.
- **Athletics** – We will continue athletics according to health guidelines (currently, only conditioning is allowable).

You may watch the conversations about reopening from the last two BUSD Board of Education meetings here:

11/19/20:

https://burbankusd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=7950&meta_id=356956

11/5/20:

https://burbankusd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=7948&meta_id=356603

I realize this is not the announcement we all wanted; however, we must prioritize the health and safety of our students, families, and employees and provide a consistent and stable learning environment. We will continue to add to our distance learning plan with in-person opportunities as soon as health conditions improve.

Sincerely,



Matt Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent