



Burbank Unified School District
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Superintendent
Matt Hill, Ed.D.

February 10, 2021

Dear Burbank Unified Students, Families, and Employees:

For almost a year we have dealt with the trauma caused by this pandemic. Many of us are frustrated and exhausted; however, I am still optimistic about the future. We are currently seeing case rates reduce and more vaccines are being administered (still not enough, though). I encourage all of us to continue to share our frustrations and concerns in a respectful manner. Some of us are anxious to return to school, and some of us have serious concerns about the health and safety of students and employees. We must listen to both sides and then develop a thoughtful plan that allows us to return students to campus. As a reminder, the Burbank Family Service Agency is available to support students by calling (818) 845-7671. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also has posted resources [on their website](#).

Current Progress

- **In-person academic supports:** We are expanding opportunities to bring back students who have not been successful in Distance Learning.
- **Athletic conditioning:** On Monday, we were able to resume athletic conditioning for cross country. As conditions improve, we will add additional sports and activities.
- **End-of-year activities:** We are planning on multiple types of end-of-year activities based on the potential health conditions at that time. Your principals will be sharing more information over the next several weeks.
- **Summer school:** We are currently planning for an expanded summer school. Our preference is in-person, but we are designing a hybrid and Distance Learning model in case health conditions do not allow for us to fully return to in-person instruction.

Current Advocacy

Unfortunately, the amount of vaccine available for school district employees is still insufficient. Board members and I continue to advocate for vaccines to be a priority for school district employees. We have established a partnership with the City of Burbank to vaccinate all 1,700 of our employees; we just need the vaccine doses. We are also continuing to advocate for the

State of California to establish a regular testing program for all employees and students at no cost to the school district. The State should use federal stimulus funding instead of transferring the burden to school districts.

Plans for the 2021-22 School Year

We are currently planning for the 2021-22 school year with the expectation that our students will be back on campus learning in-person to the greatest extent possible. Our preference is in-person, but we are designing a hybrid and a Distance Learning model if health conditions do not allow us to fully return to in-person instruction. The current health guidelines require the County of Los Angeles's adjusted case rate to drop below 25 cases per 100,000 population for five consecutive days for elementary schools and below 7 cases per 100,000 population for middle and high schools. The current adjusted case rate in L.A. County is 31.7 cases per 100,000 population (as of 2/9/21).

As we head into a four-day weekend, please enjoy the weekend, but please follow all health guidelines (wear a mask, maintain 6 feet of distance, and limit gatherings). For those of you traveling outside of the state, I hope you have a great time and please [abide by the mandatory 10-day quarantine](#) upon your return to California.

Take care,

Matt Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent