



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

July 13, 2020

Dear Families, Students, and Employees:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on all of us and things are changing on a daily basis.

Today, the Governor announced that additional organizations will need to reclose due to current health conditions. Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen the alarming increasing in COVID-19 cases due to reopening organizations too quickly. We will continue to make decisions based on science and facts. As you know, members of the Board of Education, Burbank Teachers Association (BTA), California School Employees Association (CSEA), Burbank Council Parent Teachers Association (BCPTA), and Burbank Association of School Administrators (BASA) have been working collaboratively all summer via the Reopening Committee to make plans to reopen schools in a safe manner. We had hopes for opening with students on campus in a hybrid model with students attending school for part of the day and an option for 100% distance learning. We have been surveying our parents and planning for this. We know everyone wants to see students back in school as soon it is safe to do so, however, the current health data does not support this.

Los Angeles County has seen a surge of new cases over the last week. The rate of those who test positive for the virus is approaching 10%, significantly higher than the level of 5% the World Health Organization indicates in their guidelines for safely reopening communities. On July 12, the total number of new cases reported by the Los Angeles Department of Public Health was 3,332. The health and safety of our students and employees is not something that we are willing to take chances with in the current environment. **Therefore, we have decided that BUSD will open in a 100% distance learning model on August 17.** We will continue to monitor health conditions and guidelines throughout the year and will let our community know when there is an opportunity to resume in-person instruction.

We have been preparing for this possibility and will be ready to start the school-year in a 100% distance learning model. Distance learning will include regular schedules for students with live instruction, regular grading, and attendance. Schools will also evaluate learning loss and provide extra support when necessary. We will continue to provide specific details over the next several weeks. We look forward to opening schools physically at some point in the year, but will need extra support from both the state and

federal government in order to do so in a safe manner and we must continue to follow the science as it relates to this virus.

Sincerely,

Armond Aghakhanian Ed.D., President, BUSD Board of Education

Matt Hill, Ed.D., Superintendent

Diana Abasta, President, Burbank Teachers Association (BTA)

Louis Ayala, President, California School Employees Association (CSEA)

Oscar Macias, Ed.D., President, Burbank Association of School Administrators (BASA)

Wendi Harvel, President, Burbank Council Parent Teacher Association (BCPTA)