

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 3196

**“COMMITTING TO RETURNING STUDENTS TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION BY THE
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22 AND MITIGATING LEARNING LOSS”**

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Sacramento City Unified School District (“SCUSD”) schools temporarily closed to in-person instruction beginning March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, students have shown incredible resilience in the face of historic circumstances, educators and staff have put in tireless work to teach in unprecedented ways, and families have juggled simultaneously working in a pandemic and supporting distance learning; and

WHEREAS, in-person learning historically has proven to be the most effective form of learning for the majority of students because it allows them to develop socially and emotionally while exploring ideas and dynamic social situations among their teachers and peers; and

WHEREAS, SCUSD schools have begun opening for limited in-person learning beginning April 8 in a hybrid model that allows for two half-days of in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by Policy Analysis for California Education found that “there has been significant learning loss in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, with students in earlier grades most affected,” and that “certain student groups, especially low-income students and English language learners (ELLs), are falling behind more compared to others;” and

WHEREAS, the District’s Attendance and Engagement team has consistently reviewed data on student attendance and engagement, finding that 17.9% of students were chronically absent (missing 10% or more); and

WHEREAS, medical claim phone lines and healthcare providers have reported spikes in children facing severe symptoms of mental health challenges, such as UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, which reported a 66% increase in the number of suicidal children in the emergency room and a 75% increase in youth who required hospitalization for mental health services; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2020, hundreds more children in California died from suicide than the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the District has supported 1,048 students/families with 1,903 mental health referrals to support their social and emotional wellbeing during distance learning; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention, updated on March 19, 2021, says that “many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open;” and

WHEREAS, the District has undertaken a review of its facilities and ability to implement safety measure including space capacity and the ability to provide a safe transition back to in-person instruction, finding that as of April 16, 2021, 100% of elementary and K-8 sites meet or exceed COVID-19 readiness facilities standards as outlined by PBK Architects, and 75% of middle and high School sites meet or exceed COVID-19 readiness facilities standards as outlined by PBK Architects. Staff expect the remaining 25% of middle school and high school sites to meet or exceed COVID-19 readiness facilities standards as outlined by PBK Architects by April 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tara O. Henderson, Dr. Monica Gandhi, Dr. Tracy Beth Hoeg and Dr. Daniel Johnson, upon whose research the CDC guidelines are based, wrote that “keeping schools closed or even partially closed, based on what we know now is unwarranted, is harming children, and has become a human rights issue;” and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom has announced that on June 15, 2021, the state of California will “fully reopen,” and the color-coded tier system and other COVID-19 restrictions will be phased out as vaccinations increase and community spread decreases; and

WHEREAS, the District has successfully provided 8 vaccine clinics with 12,921 vaccines provided to 8,067 individuals (staff and eligible community members); and

WHEREAS, according to local, state and national public health authorities, there is currently no applicable public health order, guidelines or recommendation that would prevent a return to full-time, five day a week instruction for all Sacramento City Unified students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education which finds and determines as follows:

1. Adopts the foregoing recitals as true and correct.
2. The Board commits to working with staff and labor partners as needed, to ensure that all District students will be able to return to full-time in-person instruction, five days a week on the first day of the 2021-22 academic calendar.
3. The Board instructs staff to expand in-person learning time/opportunities to at least the pre-pandemic model before the end of the 2020-21 school year, where and when it is possible.
4. That upon return in the Fall of the 2021-22 academic calendar, students should have access to as many career and extracurricular programs as health and safety guidelines allow.
5. Through summer programs, expanded learning opportunities along with regular learning, the District will be supporting the social-emotional and mental health needs of our system while ensuring a rigorous academic program prioritizing the needs of the student groups outlined in AB 86.
6. Mitigating the learning loss deepened by distance learning will remain a priority throughout the 2021-22 school year.

7. Staff shall study how best to bring a virtual learning platform that contains elements of highest quality teaching and a system to work with families to explore the best learning options and report back to the Board with those options.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 22nd day of April, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1
ATTESTED TO:



Christina Pritchett
President of the Board of Education



Jorge A. Aguilar
Secretary of the Board of Education