
From: Renee Webster-Hawkins
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:29 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Item 2.0 Public Comment for August 10, 2021 Special Meeting

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Please accept this written comment for Item 2.0 for tonight's Special Meeting.

Dear President Pritchett, Trustees & Superintendent:

With school starting in 3 weeks, parents urgently need to understand the details of the learning options that the District will be offering pursuant to -- or over and above -- the requirements for in-person learning and independent study under Assembly Bill 130. Members of the Parents United to Restore our Schools community have the following questions:

Enrollment:

1. If a student elects independent study due to medical risk during the pandemic, will they be guaranteed return to their current school of enrollment when the pandemic subsides, including open enrollment schools?
2. If a student/family chooses independent study, when will they have opportunities to shift back to in person instruction?
3. Can a student switch to independent study after school is started? For example, if a parent chose to send their child back to the classroom but later found a reason to need to keep their child at home (for example, a family member is facing a medical condition) would a parent be able to put their child in independent study later in the year?
4. What if truly "independent" study isn't possible for the student but returning in person isn't a good fit for health reasons? Are there other options? Has the District partnered with charter schools to open up home-school slots or other educational placements?

Pandemic Response:

1. For students electing in-person learning but who need to periodically quarantine, will they be able to zoom into live instruction with their teacher and classmates so they do not fall behind or miss any synchronous instructional time?

Students with Exceptional Needs:

1. Since students with disabilities are eligible for independent study if their IEPs allow it, how is the District making sure that every family can meet with their IEP team before school starts to ensure the student's services and accommodations are designed for the student's success in independent study especially for those students who are at higher risk from COVID?

2. For students with disabilities who may be subject to periodic quarantine, how will their specialized academic instruction and related services continue uninterrupted?

Staffing -- Supply and Demand:

1. How is the District determining the demand for Independent Study?
2. How will the District seek to match demand by students/parents with supply of teachers?
3. How much supply will be available and who is providing the supply?
4. How is the District ensuring that all independent study students will have assigned teachers with appropriate credentials?
5. Who is staffing independent study? Has the District secured outside or additional teachers to provide this service, or is it looking to reassign teachers who do not want to return to the classroom?
6. If demand exceeds supply, how will the supply be rationed?

7. How many students will each Independent Study teacher be assigned?
8. How and when will District seek to determine how supply and demand match-up?
9. Has the District determined the number of students who will be electing to repeat a grade? How will the option to repeat a grade impact the ability to ensure highly qualified teachers in every classroom in every grade?

We understand that the Board doesn't have to respond to questions raised in public comment. However, given the importance of these questions, we hope you can direct the Superintendent to have staff to conduct a community/townhall meeting immediately -- *like this week!* -- to address these and related issues to the 2021-2022 school year.

Respectfully,
Reneé Webster-Hawkins
On behalf of the PURS Community