



Town Hall

April 29, 2020

Thank You for Joining us Tonight

Brent Stephens, Superintendent

Ka'Dijah Brown, Director, Berkeley Public Schools Board of Education

Bajé Thiara, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services

Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology

Natasha Beery, Director of BSEP & Community Relations

Andy Krenz, Director of Education, *Thought Exchange*

Our Meeting Tonight

- Welcome, Introductions, Board Comments
- Distance Learning, including Zoom Update
- Community Partners Update - Health Orders, Volunteers
- Thought Exchanges
 - *Current Concerns*
 - *Planning for the Future*
- Planning Advisory Committees
- Community Engagement Plan and Next Steps

Distance Learning Updates

- Extended Learning Programs to resume (BEARS and LEARNS)
- Instructional Assistants will begin 1-1 and small group online support
- PreK Chromebook distribution is ongoing
- Berkeley Adult School has moved many of its programs, including ESL, to an online format

Distance Learning Updates

- Teachers report that student participation rates have been steadily increasing from week to week
- Last week, we sent out a survey to secondary students to gather feedback on their distance learning experience. 2600 Student Surveys are now being analyzed
- The corresponding Parent Survey was distributed today to gather their perspective on the distance learning experience

Approved BUSD Board Action, April 22

The Superintendent requests that the Board of Education close school facilities for the remainder of the school year. In the event that the Alameda County Public Health Officer indicates that schools may re-open, this decision will be re-visited.

**This decision does not impact planning for the Summer or Fall.*

Zoom Update

- BUSD will reinstate the use of Zoom on Monday, May 4
- Teachers may select between Zoom or Google Meet
- Changes to Zoom use:
 - Updated Security Protocols
 - Students sign in through @students.berkeley.net
 - Expanded Professional Development

Community Partners Update

Stay home order extended through May 31

New order eases some restrictions and includes regional indicators that will be used to guide future decisions.

[CITYOFBERKELEY.INFO/COVID19](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/COVID19)



Community Partners Update

Since School Facilities Closed:

- 34,000 Meals Distributed
- 2,500 Chromebooks
- 2,500 School Supply bags
- 800 Gardening Kits
- 450+ Musical Instruments





"What are some thoughts, concerns or questions that are on the top of your minds right now?"

Looking Ahead

What will school look like in 2020-2021?

State Government

April 14, 2020

California's six indicators for **modifying the stay-at-home order**

- The ability to **monitor** and protect our communities through **testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting** those who are positive or exposed;
- The ability to **prevent infection in people who are at risk** for more severe COVID-19;
- The ability of the hospital and health systems to **handle surges**;
- The ability to develop **therapeutics** to meet the demand;
- The ability for businesses, **schools**, and child care facilities to **support physical distancing**; and
- The ability to determine **when to reinstitute** certain measures, such as the stay-at-home orders, if necessary.

Planning Workgroups

Ongoing

- Distance Learning
- Educational Services
- Special Education
- Business Services
- Afterschool
- Fall Planning Workgroup

New and Reconvened

- Fall 2020 Advisory Committees
- Superintendent's Budget Advisory

Tonight's feedback will be included for use by these new and reconvened planning workgroups



What are the most important things our school district needs to think about as we continue to respond to COVID-19 and plan for the future?

Community Engagement - Next Steps

- Thought Exchange Open through May 3
- Board Updates May 6 and May 20
- Student Survey in process
- Parent/Guardian Survey launched
- Staff Survey in development
- Next Online Town Hall May 13

Guidance

San Diego
County Office of
Education,

April 14, 2020

- Adapt processes and timelines necessary to prepare for the new school year.
 - Prepare for the possibility that the start of the 2020-21 school year may need to be delayed.
 - Create plans to restore operations in phases.
 - Consider the precautions necessary to protect students with special needs relative to the threat posed by COVID-19.
 - Create plans to assess and respond to the uneven outcomes created by school closures.

Guidance

San Diego
County Office of
Education,

April 14, 2020

- Develop a continuum of distance learning options.
 - Develop robust independent study programs as an alternative for parents who want this option.
 - Include a variety of options that allow students in independent study programs to participate in campus life (electives, sports, dances, etc.).
 - Consider the use of learning centers to support student learning with weekly in-person and virtual appointments for support.
 - Develop the capacity to provide synchronous interactive distance learning (via classroom webcast) as a means of providing instruction for students who cannot physically participate in classroom instruction.

Guidance

San Diego
County Office of
Education,

April 14, 2020

- Develop a continuum of strategies for implementation if social distancing is required.
 - Identify all locations and times where students are in close contact with each other and create strategies to restructure those locations and activities.
 - Consider altering bell schedules, staggering start times, creating multiple recess and lunch periods, and creating multiple meal distribution points.
 - In secondary schools, consider implementing a block schedule to reduce student movement during the day and cross contamination of classrooms.

Develop plans to blend classroom and distance learning as an alternative to school closures.

Option 1: Limit the number of students on campus to 50% of normal.

- Divide all classes into two equal groups: one would come to school on Monday and Wednesday, the other on Tuesday and Thursday.
- All teachers provide each group with two days of direct instruction and support, and three days of assignments to complete at home each week.
- Secondary schools could also implement a block schedule to reduce passing periods and lower the frequency of touches in each classroom. Provide take-home meals for each eligible student before they leave each day.

Guidance

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Develop plans to blend classroom and distance learning as an alternative to school closures.

Option 2: Limit the number of students on campus to 20% of normal.

- All classes are divided into five equal groups: one for each day of the week.
- All teachers provide each group with one day of direct instruction and support, and four days of assignments to complete at home.
- Provide take-home meals for each eligible student before they leave each day.
- Use Friday for teachers to provide individual or small-group support by appointment or to prepare packets for the next week.

Guidance

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