



solana beach school district

July 17, 2020

Dear Solana Beach School District families,

Thank you to the many families and staff who attended our Site-Specific Information Meetings this week. I want to commend each of our school site leaders for their leadership in hosting these meetings and for the District office staff who have been working tirelessly preparing for reopening the 2020-21 school year. I believe you observed first-hand that we love what we do, and we want nothing more than to return our students and staff to our physical campuses safely. We have and will continue to plan our reopening with health and safety as top priority.

Uncertainty, changing health information, and frequently amended guidelines from state and local agencies continue to inundate school districts. Today, Governor Newsom announced new restrictions which significantly change our course for physically reopening schools on August 25th. While we are ready to offer two learning models, Online Scholars and Onsite Scholars, recent developments announced today by Governor Newsom indicate that schools may only reopen if their counties have been off the state monitoring list for 14 consecutive days. Since July 6, 2020, San Diego County has been on the state's "watch list."

Therefore, while SBSB will still offer an onsite model when it is safe to do so, we will now be shifting planning efforts to focus primarily on launching online learning for all students. Please know that we will also continue planning the Onsite Scholars model for when conditions are deemed safe to return staff and students to our schools. We will keep everyone informed as new information is released.

We remain optimistic we will be able to physically reopen during the 2020-21 school year and, as such, staff will be updating the Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m. This update will include information specific to our online model, as well as recommendations for how we approach reopening when county conditions indicate it is safe to do so.

Following the seven site-specific parent information meetings, as well as the update to the Board of Education next Thursday, we will be asking parents to commit to an instructional learning model for the 2020-21 school year. This commitment is essential to staffing our Onsite and Online Scholars models; however, we have **revised** the timeline for parents/guardians to submit their commitment form. Forms will be available on Friday, July 24, until Thursday, July 30, at 6:00 p.m. Please expect a follow-up message on Friday, July 24, for instructions on how to submit your commitment form for the 2020-2021 school year.

In order to assist families, principals will remain available through office hours to help with specific questions. In addition, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be available Monday, July 20, with updates provided regularly.

Like many, I am saddened that we are unable to begin the school year with students and staff on our physical campuses; however, the health and safety of our students and staff must always be at the center of all decision-making, as this also impacts our greater communities.

I wish you, your child, and your family a safe and healthy remainder of summer, and ask that you keep practicing healthy hygiene habits to help prevent illness. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we prepare and launch the 2020-21 school year. Thank you for your support, engagement, and flexibility!

Sincerely,
Jodee Brentlinger
Superintendent