

Public Comment for City Council Meeting
March 1, 2021

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Dear City Council Members,

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

I am a committed Pasadena, CA resident and currently have worked for the Pasadena Unified School District for at least 30 years. Pasadena is my community and a place I call home.

I am writing to address the re-opening of schools in Pasadena.

As the City of Pasadena continues to struggle to control the pandemic and vaccinate its residents, which continues to impact our community disproportionately, a phased-in approach that responds to local conditions and transmission rates must be part of a responsible return to in-person instruction and services. The new variant contagion must be taken into account along with the lack of vaccination opportunities in our Latino and African-American populations within the Pasadena, CA boundaries.

Any path to bringing students and staff back to campuses will require implementing multi-layered mitigation strategies that consider community conditions and include robust cleaning, updated ventilation systems and maintenance of the updated ventilation systems, asymptomatic testing for students and school employees, six-foot social distancing with enforcement, and the necessary PPE in classrooms and offices occupied by classified staff and certificated related school employees (e.g., school psychologists, school nurses, speech therapists, DHH teachers, TOSA IIs, librarians, counselors, etc.).

To reopen schools for in-person instruction, the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) must continue to ensure that all employees required to report to school site campuses and required to interact with students (e.g., teacher, school psychologists, librarians, counselors, speech and language pathologists, school nurses, etc.) have been provided the opportunity to be FULLY VACCINATED before students return to school campuses.

We must take a comprehensive and data-driven approach that includes addressing community spread when considering the re-opening of schools. It is clear that at this time new COVID cases have not ceased and deaths in Pasadena happen daily, not to mention the county increase of MIS-C cases in children reaching 100 on 2/25/21. It is not safe for students, staff, families, or community stakeholders to re-open schools at this time. Please consider making a decision that is best not only for students, but for staff, families, and community stakeholders.

Although, it is supposed to be posted on the school website, UTP members have not seen the COVID-19 Safety Plans for their individual school sites that explain:

- 1) Recess Procedures
- 2) Physical Education Procedures
- 3) COVID-19 Exposure Protocols
- 4) Process for Class/School Closures
- 5) Surveillance Testing Schedule
- 6) Enforcement of Mask Wearing for ALL Students, including those with Special Needs
- 7) Enforcement of Recommended 6ft Social Distancing

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- 8) Procedures and Enforcement of 6ft Social Distancing with Very Young Students (pre-k through 1st grade) and those with Special Needs
- 9) Status of PPE for staff, classrooms, and other offices
- 10) Status of PPE for staff who interact with Special Education Students (e.g., for therapy sessions, assessments, feeding, etc.)

It is extremely concerning that we would even consider reopening schools during these tempered and dangerous times. PUSD has a large number of high-risk populations (e.g., students with genetic disorders and a compromised immunity, foster care students, transient students, students and staff with secondary underlying conditions, low SES households, etc.).

As a very concerned and proactive community member I ask that you please reconsider the reopening of school at this time. Please choose to keep our households healthy and free from DEATH. KEEP SCHOOLS CLOSED!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Martinez, Ruben

From: Katina MANDAVIA < >
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 6:34 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: In the Bubble: From the Frontlines: The Case For Reopening Schools (with Emily Oster)

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**Please listen to this very informative podcast.
It outlines the lack of scientific data to support keeping schools closed.**

We need high schoolers back in school immediately.. especially seniors !

The Case For Reopening Schools (with Emily Oster)

In the Bubble: From the Frontlines

Listen on Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-case-for-reopening-schools-with-emily-oster/id1504128553?i=1000509073617>

Thanks, Katina
12th grade Poly mom
Sent from my iPhone

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Linda Aguilar
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:36 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Community member comment to be read on 3-13-21 meeting

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To whom it may concern,

As I enjoyed this beautiful day in our northwest Pasadena, my own children brought up a good observation. Their question was: "why during summer, do we have to drive around the city looking for a pool, when we have one in our community?". They were referring to the John Muir High School Pool. They also mentioned the school's open field. I am wondering as a community member and as a parent, what it will take for our neighborhood to enjoy the wonderful resources we have within? I am aware that things have to remain close due to the pandemic, but looking ahead at reopening, can this be made possible? I know other neighbors that feel the same way, I can gather signatures of support if needed. I thank you for your time.

Linda Chan
--

Sent from my iPhone

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Mary Shimazaki <maryshimazaki@pusd.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:30 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: steppesutp93@gmail.com
Subject: March 1 Meeting

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In response to the opening of PUSD schools:

1. Teachers are vaccinated but kids are not so we can still carry it and bring it home to our children
2. Our communities are mostly black and brown, the communities being hit the hardest. Do we want to create an environment that contributes to the problem afflicting the most vulnerable communities?
3. What research supports that 1 1/2 months of school in a hybrid situation is going to make an academic improvement versus students having to change their current safe routine?

Thank you,

Mary Shimazaki Ed.D

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Martinez, Ruben

From: David Berk <
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:01 PM
To: superintendent@pusd.us; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: phelps.scott@pusd.us; pomeroy.elizabeth@pusd.us; Larhonda (Michelle) Bailey; Kimberly Kenne; halllee.jennifer@pusd.us; Patrick Cahalan; fredericks.tina@pusd.us; Allison Steppes
Subject: Important New Research out of the Harvard School of Public Health on existing Covid-19 tracking studies

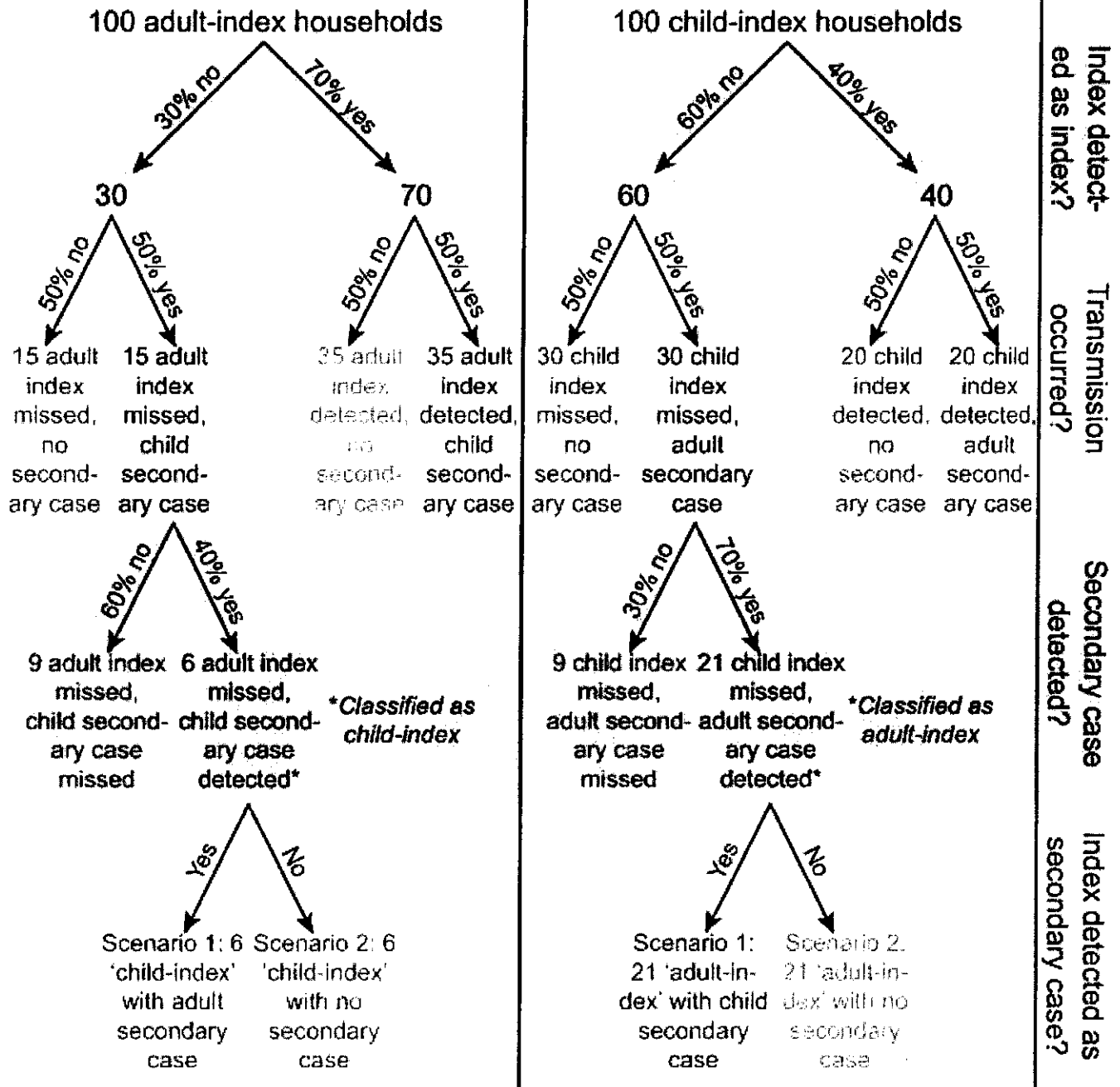
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This research was published in the European Journal of Epidemiology. It examined existing Covid-19 tracing research methods closely and revealed flaws in existing research studies that claim to show that children do not spread Covid-19 as much as adults. The photo below is included in the research article which you can read in its entirety here: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10654-021-00727-7?fbclid=IwAR0IzecOVJgszJuZAor1EC23bomLc6R6fz8ASArh_3ZI2btMclzdas1-pRA

An index case is the first case of a disease within a particular group where transmission occurs. The Harvard SPH researchers found that in households where the index case was an adult, 70% of the time they would actually be identified as the index case. But when a household's index case was a child, they would **not** be identified as the index case 60% of the time. 50% of those children would then go on to transmit to an adult. In 70% of those cases, when the adult's infection was detected, the **adult would be identified as the index case**, ignoring the role of children bringing COVID-19 into the household.

Given that this new research shows that Covid-19's spread among children is clearly far greater than previously assumed, I would hope that as custodians of our community's public-school children, families, and connected community members, that you would delay any reopening of school buildings until the impact of this new research can be considered thoroughly.

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Thank you for your time and attention,

David Berk
 Teacher, Hamilton Elementary School, Pasadena Unified School District

Martinez, Ruben

From: Cassandra Brown <
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:37 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Letter about concerns regarding the reopening of the P.U.S.D. schools

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Dear City Council Members,

My name is Cassandra Williams and I'm the Site Supervisor at the Longfellow Children Ctr. and the Area # 1 Director for U.T.P. I have a few concerns about returning to in-person learning too quickly when leading Scientist are saying that we shouldn't move to swiftly.

* I'm thankful that the City of Pasadena is helping teachers get vaccinated. There is several teachers including myself that are waiting for the Vaccine.

* There are concerns about when the schools are going to be thoroughly sanitized. There are concerns about the ventilation systems, it is understood that we are getting news systems but will there be enough clean air circulating?

* There's concerns about having enough nurses at school sites. There's concerns about Asymptomatic people spreading the Virus to teachers, students and community members.

As teachers we are passionate about teaching and we love serving the community with our skills. However, we aren't sure all safety precautions are ready to be implemented. Knowing that this Virus could be deadly causes an insurmountable amount of fear. Knowing that one could also infect their own family is concerning. Thanks for listening to some of our issues and please help to support the Educators on this matter.

Respectfully,
Cassandra Williams

Martinez, Ruben

From: Tarah Kennedy
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 6:50 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting 3/1 - Return to School

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Dear PUSD Board Members and City Council,

I'm a parent of an elementary student at PUSD. While we wait for news of the supposed return of elementary students back to their classroom, based on the latest re-opening guide and the guidance of Pasadena City Health, I am bewildered to why we do not have a start date.

The district has a strong and safe plan to return. The survey gives parents a choice whether to return to campus, not all have to return if they don't deem it personally safe. Teachers are getting vaccinated and the cases are dropping. Mental health of our students and families is declining and the longer we wait to return, the wider the gap of inequity. We need the chance to put students back in the classroom.

Please hear our voices. Please think about our children.

Many thanks in advance for your consideration,

Tarah Kennedy
PUSD Parent

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Martinez, Ruben

Subject: FW: Vaccines Banish Any Doubt About Reopening Schools - The Atlantic

From: "Wilson, Andy" <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>
Date: February 28, 2021 at 2:39:47 PM PST
To: "Jomsky, Mark" <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: "Goh, Ying-Ying" <ygoh@cityofpasadena.net>, "Mermell, Steve" <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>, Brian McDonald <mcdonald.brian@pusd.us>
Subject: Fwd: Vaccines Banish Any Doubt About Reopening Schools - The Atlantic

Hi Mark -

Can you share this important article from the Atlantic with the Council as it relates to Monday's joint meeting with PUSD?

thx,

Andy

Overcaution Carries Its Own Danger to Children

Incessant pessimism about the coronavirus is hard to kick, but the vaccines are banishing any doubt about reopening schools.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/02/vaccines-are-banishing-any-debate-about-reopening-schools/618155/>

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info@savecaliforniastudentsnow.com

Pasadena City Council
PUSD Board of Education
City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: COVID-19 School Reopening

Dear Honorable Mayor, City Council, Dr. Goh, and PUSD Board of Education,

California's children have now spent one year away from their classrooms—precious time sacrificed in the name of public health. This lack of social interaction for our kids has caused an increase in mental health breakdowns and suicide attempts, weight gain from lack of physical activity and excessive screen time, a general lack of motivation, and overall stunted developmental gains. They have lost a year of learning, socialization, and well-being, along with the safety of daily interaction with educators trained to recognize signs of child abuse.

Pediatricians from San Francisco to San Diego are calling for an immediate reopening of schools. Dr. Alice Kuo, Executive Board member of the Southern California Chapter and Professor of Pediatrics at UCLA said, "We are causing undue harm to millions of children by keeping schools closed for this long." Dr. Janet Crow, a pediatrician at UC San Diego, was recently quoted in the San Diego Tribune saying, "Somebody needs to think about these kids who don't have a vote, children never get to advocate for themselves. We have to advocate for them." To bring this home, Pasadena's own local pediatrician, Dr. Peggy Legault, wrote to Pasadena City Council back in October of 2020, "The negative effects of online school are dramatic. We see depression due to lack of human contact, poor sleeping habits, poor school performance due to lack of interaction and support. We see anxiety related to COVID fears, loss of relationships, how to consider applying to college. We have seen a dramatic increase in anorexia on one hand and weight gain on the other – some kids are super aware of their nutrition in relation to their lack of exercise who then restrict their intake dramatically while others eat more than ever trying to fill their emptiness. My many patients with ADHD are suffering greatly as sitting in front of a computer screen for hours is hard for the most focused student but almost impossible for those with poor focus."

How many letters and statements from pediatricians will it take before this becomes a city emergency? The CDC says that a return to school is safe when we have reached a positivity rate below 5% (we are at 3.9%) and schools across the country are reopening successfully, so why are our Pasadena kids still at home with no end in sight? When will our local officials and PUSD staff accept that our children are bearing the brunt of political infighting and public health measures gone too far? Kids can't wait any longer to return to school and the fact our city is getting close to the red tier, along with having vaccinated 30,000 residents, should mean we start to prioritize kids and get them the help they need.

Pasadena Star News published an editorial Friday, February 26th saying, "Depriving California's students of in-person learning is doing more harm than good. It's of course imperative for officials to get things right and mitigate potential harms. **But stalling for months longer is simply untenable.**"

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It is time for all of us to be an advocate for Pasadena children. Unlike the unions, children do not have the financial means to sway the conversation with elected officials. Your combined efforts can ensure that our children return to school before the one year mark. We are counting on you to pay attention to the struggles our kids are facing and get them back to school.

Thank you,

Erika Foy
 On behalf of Save California Students Now

LA County is currently at 3.9% positivity rate and on 2/26/21 Pasadena reported only 9 new COVID cases. If this decline continues, Pasadena will soon qualify for low transmission as indicated by the CDC in their operational guidelines published on February 12, 2021. In our opinion, it is imperative the City of Pasadena considers separating the Pasadena Health Department from being combined with LA County. It has become obvious we will reach the red tier and low transmission blue before the entire LA County does. Our kids in grades 7-12 are in need of in-person education and we should be pushing to get them in class as soon as possible if our area reaches these thresholds. It doesn't make sense to wait for a region of 10,000,000 people.

New Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19*
 (reported over 7 days) (from CDC's New Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools
 through Phased Mitigation)

Indicator	Lowest Transmission	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days**	Category no longer exists. It has been merged into one low transmission (blue) category.	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days***		<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

Why was The City of Long Beach able to vaccinate 6500 teachers earlier this month and Pasadena is nowhere near these numbers even today?

Long Beach mayor on rapidly vaccinating residents, from health care workers to teachers and food workers

Written by Amy Ta, produced by Bennett Purser Feb. 03, 2021 CORONAVIRUS



“We're moving right now into second doses. ... But we continue every single day, also focused on that 65-plus population. And you're just not hearing some of the same horror stories that you're hearing [from] other places across the country or the state.”

Photo by Office of Mayor Robert Garcia.

While LA County is dealing with COVID-19 vaccination problems such as short supplies, long lines, and a complicated sign-up system, it's a different story in Long Beach. There, the city is already vaccinating teachers and grocery store workers. That's on top of healthcare workers, long-term care residents and staff, and people 65 and older. Long Beach has its own public health department, so it can set different rules than the rest of the county.

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia tells KCRW that vaccination shots have gone to 6500 educators from Long Beach Unified School District, plus 500-600 key staff at the city's community college. On Monday, critical frontline and custodial staff at California State University Long Beach got shots too.

"The education sector, along with some of the privates and the independent schools, has been going really well. And something we're really proud of here in the city is getting more teachers vaccinated," he says.

If campuses are going to open for in-person classes, teachers and staff must be vaccinated, and the supply right now is a big question, Garcia says.

"We really need more supply from the feds. And certainly the state's working on that. If we were able to vaccinate, let's say our K-12 teachers or K-5 teachers, I think we're much more likely to have some type of campus reopening this semester. But it's really going to be dependent on the school district, on the teachers, and how safe folks feel."

He adds what also matters are personal protective equipment and proper ventilation in classrooms.

Health care and food service workers

"Health care workers are for the most part done, or over half of them are on their second doses. We have 100% of our skilled care facilities are done — and staff and residents are all of course on their second dosage right now," Garcia says.

The city has also vaccinated its firefighters, police officers, emergency service workers. Now the concentration is on teachers and food workers.

"We're moving right now into second doses. ... But we continue every single day, also focused on that 65-plus population. And you're just not hearing some of the same horror stories that you're hearing [from] other places across the country of the state."

How was Long Beach able to do this so quickly?

“We made a decision early on that I think was really important. And when vaccines first started coming in, a lot of health jurisdictions made these decisions about, ‘Well we’re going to take what comes in, and we’re going to plan it out over a certain period of time, so we don’t run out. We’re going to plan the next three weeks out and set aside this many per day for the next three weeks,’” Garcia recalls.

He explains Long Beach’s different approach: “We got the vaccine, and we said, ‘Let’s run out like tomorrow. ... Let’s get it out as fast as possible. And if we run out, that is a good problem to have.’ And so that is a riskier approach in some ways. But it’s worked for us. And so it’s given us the opportunity to get the vaccine out the door faster and move through the tiers quicker.”

Size is another factor. The city of Long Beach is smaller than the city of LA, and Long Beach’s health department is smaller than LA County’s.

“I mean, I have a lot of love and support for the leaders of the county system right now. They’re doing a huge, huge amount of work and getting all these folks vaccinated. But yes, having our own health department allows us to make decisions faster and move quicker, and quite frankly, correct problems as they arise,” Garcia says.

Supply is Long Beach’s biggest challenge

“We are vaccinating what comes in. But we could be vaccinating 10 times what we’re doing right now if we had just more vaccines, and so we would be flying through all of these tiers. ... So whatever comes in, we get out the door,” says Garcia.

He says he’s hopeful about more organization happening at the federal level, and that Gov. Gavin Newsom has made changes in the last week or two that will allow vaccines to move more quickly statewide.

“Hero pay” and grocery store closures

The company [Kroger](#) says it’s closing two stores in Long Beach after the city mandated “hero pay” — a \$4 per hour raise for grocery store workers during the pandemic. The raise is temporary, but 200 people could lose their jobs because of store closures.

“It’s completely just wrong and really shameful that this is what Kroger is doing. ... The supermarket chains are doing better than they ever have. And anyone that’s gone into a grocery store and seen one of these workers, how can you look someone in the eye and tell them that they don’t deserve a

few extra dollars an hour as hazard pay during this pandemic?" says Garcia. "Hazard pay, heroes' pay was something that supermarkets were doing over the summer when the situation was not even as bad as it is today."

He says the Long Beach City Council unanimously adopted this extra pay and he signed it into law. "Immediately they took us to court, they tried to get a temporary restraining order. They lost. ... The judge did not grant their temporary restraining order on the ordinance. And now, we are going to continue to go to court later this month to protect these workers."

He adds that Long Beach will also work with people who might lose their jobs and try to get them placement at other stores or whatever support they need.

He says there's overwhelming support across the state. "Just since we passed heroes' pay, the city of Los Angeles adopted it. Oakland just adopted it last night. San Jose just adopted it last night. And there's a handful of other cities that are looking to do the same. So this is a movement across the state. And it's absolutely the right thing to do."

Kroger says these two stores were failing anyway, and that Long Beach's action overstepped their traditional management union bargaining process.

"Yes. And they also said, I believe in their press release, that they're linking closure of the stores to the heroes' pay. So I think what they're saying is they would rather not pay and support their workers. ... We're going to be in court later this month," says Garcia.

A personal loss for Mayor Garcia

Garcia's mom and stepfather died of COVID-19 this past summer.

"My mom was a healthcare worker. And so kind of her advice, even before the pandemic, and the way that she cared about science and about doing the right thing and supporting medicine, I think has really strengthened my ability to actually do the job," says Garcia.

"I tell people all the time that when I see someone getting a vaccine, I view that as an opportunity to see that person's life, and that is a life-saving opportunity. And I know that my mom as a health care worker would have been at the front of the line getting her vaccination. And so I wake up thinking every day, you know, what can I do to help people, keep everyone and their family together?"

Editorial

Newsom must push to get schools open

Gov. Gavin Newsom must continue to push for the earliest reopening of schools that is possible. While it means standing up to members of his own party and big spending teachers unions, it's ultimately the right thing to do.

Last week, Newsom indicated his opposition to Senate Bill 86, a legislative proposal that would allow some degree of school reopenings if positive countywide cases per 100,000 fall below a particular amount. "I made it crystal clear. I can't support something that's going to delay the safe reopening of schools for our kids," he said. "We would be, if we adopted that proposal, an extreme outlier."

Newsom has indicated that California will be setting aside a portion of vaccines for school staff, which is a positive development, but negotiations are ongoing. According to Politico, while the governor indicated some progress had been made, legislators have characterized the negotiations as be-

of a quality education which brings with it advantages that follow them for the rest of their lives.

"Based on the existing evidence regarding the limited role primary school-aged children play in transmission of COVID-19 and the heavy burden of decreased educational exposure on their health, we believe that restoring access to in-person primary school education should be an immediate national priority," the authors of the study argued.

Likewise, in September, economists Eric Hanushek and Ludger Woessmann estimated that school closures will have global economic impacts for years to come, harming the economically disadvantaged the most.

ing “still mostly at a standstill.”

In a statement issued Thursday, Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron called out both Democratic state lawmakers for insisting on stricter conditions for reopening and Newsom’s tiered reopening system, which she described as “causing hardship for parents and, most importantly, is causing irreparable harm to students.”

To that point, while it will be some time before we learn the full extent of the harm of school closures, there’s good reason to believe that the longer schools are closed, the more that students will fall behind.

CalMatters columnist Dan Walters recently noted a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association which estimated “that heavy loss of classroom instruction could slice years off the lives of students” by depriving them

“While the precise learning losses are not yet known, existing research suggests that the students in grades 1-12 affected by the closures might expect some 3% lower income over their entire lifetimes,” they wrote. “For nations, the lower long-term growth related to such losses might yield an average of 1.5% lower annual GDP for the remainder of the century.”

On top of all of that, as anyone reading this is aware, in-person education isn’t just about learning about various subjects. It’s about learning how to collaborate with others. It’s a critical time for young people to socialize with others their own age.

Depriving California’s students of in-person learning is doing more harm than good. It’s of course imperative for officials to get things right and mitigate potential harms. But stalling for months longer is simply untenable.

Novelo, Lilia

Subject: FW: Deal Reached on School Reopening - The Details

From: Scott Phelps
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Fw: Deal Reached on School Reopening - The Details

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for the mayor and council from our lobbyist

----- Forwarded Message -----
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021, 10:57:36 AM PST
Subject: Deal Reached on School Reopening - The Details

Governor Newsom and both houses of the Legislature have reached an agreement to incentivize school reopening. This compromise will be signed by the Governor by the end of the week and pushes local education agencies (LEAs) to provide more in-person instruction by April 1.

The deal does not force schools to reopen but provides incentives to do so. It also addresses several concerns raised by groups representing school agencies, particularly those related to collective bargaining, testing cadences, vaccines, timelines and timing.

As with prior proposals, the deal provides two pots of funding with separate rules for each: \$2 billion to incentivize schools to provide more in-person instruction and \$4.6 billion for more learning time and academic interventions. The CDE will notify LEAs of their total apportionment within 15 days of the enactment of the bill.

The deal is contained in a newly amended version of **SB 86 / AB 86**. Below is a description of the two funding opportunities.

\$2 Billion for School Reopening

All LEAs are eligible to these funds, but not all LEAs will necessarily meet the criteria for expending them. The funds will be allocated in proportion to the LEA's total LCFF entitlement target. However, non-classroom-based (NCB) charter schools are excluded from participating in this funding opportunity. The program no longer excludes Independent Study ADA.

We are told LEAs will receive half of the funding in May and the other half in August. According to the Administration, the two payments include both grants, with a true-up in the second payment if the LEA received funds they are not eligible to receive.

In order to be eligible to expend the funds, LEAs must provide in-person instruction by April 1, with the ability to gain partial funding on a sliding scale if open by May 15. Between April 1- May 15, an LEAs funding will be reduced by 1% for each day of instruction the LEA did not provide in-person instruction.

The definition of “in-person instruction” is defined as including hybrid settings and as follows:

- **In-person instruction** means “instruction under the immediate physical supervision and control of a certificated employee of the local educational agency while engaged in educational activities required of the pupil”
- **Above 25/100,000 (Deep Purple):** Must offer in-person instruction to the **prioritized student cohorts** but may limit the number of pupils within the prioritized cohorts that receive in-person instruction if the number of pupils in these cohorts exceeds the physical capacity of an LEA to maintain health and safety pursuant to its COVID-19 safety plan
- **Below 25/100,000 (Purple):** Must offer in-person instruction to the **prioritized student cohorts, and K-Grade 2**
- **Red/Orange/Yellow:** Must offer in-person instruction to **prioritized student cohorts, K-Grade 6, and one full grade above grade 6 (local choice)**

“Prioritized pupils” include:

- Foster and homeless youth
- English learners
- Special Education pupils
- Pupils at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- Disengaged pupils
- Students lacking access to adequate internet access

In the purple tier *only*, LEAs are required to follow the CDPH testing cadences for all students and staff. Testing for Red/Orange/Yellow counties must be consistent with the locally adopted COVID-19 Safety Plan. There is a grandfathering clause for those LEAs that have a COVID-19 Safety Plan approved by April 1. The bill also retains the data reporting requirements and school closure information requirement.

Schools must provide continuous in-instruction through the end of the scheduled 2020-21 school year in order to maintain compliance. If an LEA fails to provide continuous in-instruction, it will forfeit all funds apportioned under this grant. However, if an LEA is told to close by a local or state agency, there is no penalty.

The deal codifies in statute the Governor's recent announcement to prioritize a portion of vaccines for school staff providing in-person services. However, it includes a provision that states, "this section shall not be construed as inferring that vaccination of school staff or pupils is a prerequisite for providing in-person instruction. It also does not refer to "collective bargaining agreement" or "Memorandum of Understand" anywhere in the bill.

\$4.6 Billion for Expanded Learning Time and Academic Interventions

All LEAs will receive these funds (including NCB charter schools) in proportion to their total LCFF entitlement target. LEAs will also receive \$1,000 per homeless pupil enrolled as of the 2020-21, as reported in CALPADs as of the 2020-21 Fall 1 Submission. A state special school shall receive \$725 per ADA as of the 2020-21 second principal apportionment certification.

At least 85% of the funding must be spent to support in-person instruction and up to 15% may be used to support distant learning. LEAs that did not receive any of the \$2 billion for reopening may use 10% of these funds for reopening costs.

Consistent with prior versions of this proposal, the funding is remarkably flexible but must only be spent on the following:

- Extending instructional learning time in addition to what is required for the 2020–21 school year and the 2021–22 and the 2022–23 school years by increasing the number of instructional days or minutes provided during the school year, providing summer school or intersessional instructional programs, or taking any other action that increases the amount of instructional time or services provided to pupils based on their learning needs.
- Accelerating progress to close learning gaps through the implementation, expansion, or enhancement of learning supports including, tutoring or other one-on-one or small group learning supports provided by certificated or classified staff, learning recovery programs and materials designed to accelerate pupil academic proficiency or English language proficiency, or both, and educator training, for both certificated and classified staff, in accelerated learning strategies and effectively addressing learning gaps, including training in facilitating quality and engaging learning opportunities for all pupils.
- Integrated pupil supports to address other barriers to learning, such as the provision of health, counseling, or mental health services, access to

school meal programs, before and after school programs, or programs to address pupil trauma and social-emotional learning, or referrals for support for family or pupil needs.

- Community learning hubs that provide pupils with access to technology, high-speed internet, and other academic supports.
- Supports for credit deficient pupils to complete graduation or grade promotion requirements and to increase or improve pupils' college eligibility.
- Additional academic services for pupils, such as diagnostic, progress monitoring, and benchmark assessments of pupil learning.
- Training for school staff on strategies, including trauma-informed practices, to engage pupils and families in addressing pupils' social-emotional health needs and academic needs.

For the purpose of the Expanded Learning Grant, "prioritized pupils" include:

- Foster and homeless youth
- English learners
- Low-income pupils
- Special Education pupils
- Pupils at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- Disengaged pupils
- Pupils who are below grade level (including those in danger of not graduating)
- Students lacking access to high-speed internet and computing devices

At least 10% of the portion LEAs receive in proportion to their total LCFF entitlement target, must be used to support paraprofessionals (retain or hire, with a priority for full-time paraprofessionals) and this will count towards the 85% requirement. The CDE will also identify how much each LEA will need to expend in order to meet this requirement.

LEAs must complete an expenditure plan for these funds prior to June 1, 2021, but may expend the funds prior to this time. The funds must be expended by August 31, 2022.

The bill also appropriates \$5 million to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) to provide LEAs with support for creating these plans. The deal also provides \$25 million for the Safe Schools for All Team to coordinate technical assistance and enforcement.

What's Next?

Both Budget Committees are expected to vote on the bills on Tuesday, with floor votes expected Thursday. This compromise will be fast-tracked to Governor Newsom's desk and should be signed into law by Friday. LEAs will be

notified of their total funding allocation within 15 days of the bill being signed into law.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information. We will continue to keep you apprised of developments.

Take care,
-Barrett

Barrett Snider