



*Preparing Career Ready Graduates*

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## **SUPERINTENDENT**

Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

November 20, 2020

Dear Fresno Unified Family,

In anticipation of our eventual return to campus second semester, Fresno Unified and Fresno Teachers Association have been working together to develop plans for when Fresno County achieves orange tier status, and we can safely bring students and staff back to in-person instruction. Thursday, November 19, we held a family town hall meeting to provide details around our timeline for returning, school schedules, safety and health protocols and more.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Students will return to distance learning in January with additional instructional time with their teacher.
- January 11 will be a buyback day providing staff professional learning and students will start back in their virtual learning environment January 12.
- Students and staff will return to in-person instruction when Fresno County achieves orange status. Instructional minutes will be added again when that occurs. Returning will begin with 50% of our TK-1 students with additional grade levels phased in every two weeks. Elementary parents should complete an online survey available November 20-December 3 to indicate their plans for their student returning to campus.
- Based on physical distancing requirements, middle and high schools will have up to 25% of their student enrollment return.
- With a desire to keep students with their teacher, daily instruction will be simultaneous, with teachers providing live instruction to those in the classroom at the same as those remaining in virtual learning.
- Safety protocols will be in place for all those on campus, including required masks, physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene, added sanitizing, shifts in arrival and departure patters, traffic flow, staggered meal periods and more.

As our families plan for the second semester, we know there will be many questions. We will continue to provide updates after Thanksgiving break. In the meantime, you will find additional details below, including several frequently asked questions. For videos (including Thursday's town hall), updated school schedules, timelines, and a complete list of frequently asked questions, visit [fresnounified.org](http://fresnounified.org). The elementary parent survey can also be found on the district website. Fresno Unified recognizes this pandemic has been difficult. We appreciate your efforts in supporting our students and one another as our country, our state and our city continue to navigate uncharted water. We're stronger together.

**Distance learning:** Online instruction in which student and instructor are in different locations and student is under the general supervision of their teacher.

**In-person instruction:** Instruction and academic supports are provided on the physical campus where students and teacher are in the same location/space

**Simultaneous teaching:** Through technology, the teacher provides instruction to those students physically in their class while at the same time streaming instruction and engaging students who remain remote learning at home.

**Live instruction: Also known as synchronous learning,** the teacher provides to their students, or synchronous learning takes place in real-time such as a live whole-class, small group, or individual meeting via an online platform or in-person when possible.

**Independent learning.** Independent student learning or asynchronous learning occurs without direct interaction between student and teacher. This learning can include self-paced classroom work, student collaboration, independent reading, videos or research and individual projects.

**Teacher/class assignments:** Our intent is to keep students with their teachers. Students in distance learning will remain with their current teachers. Parent and teacher surveys are due December 3 identifying those that can return to in-person instruction. After that, the District will confirm teacher and class assignments for second semester.

**Classroom capacity:** Based on physical distancing requirements of six feet, we anticipate an average of 10 students in a classroom. At the elementary level that equates to bringing approximately 50% of students back to in-person instruction at one time. Based on student populations at our middle school and high schools, up to 25% of students may return to in-person instruction.

**Middle/high School return to campus priorities:** Based on physical distancing requirements of six feet, secondary sites can only accommodate up to 25% of their student enrollment. Secondary students that return to in-person instruction will be identified based on a careful review of student performance and attendance data from the period of distance learning. Students in special education programs, homeless and foster youth, English Language learners, and students who have struggled with internet connectivity at home will remain high priority groups for in-person return.

**Transportation:** Schedules are being developed, but we know riders will be required to wear masks and physical distance on the bus and at the bus stop. Buses will operate at 2/3 capacity.

**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch meal distribution will continue on a grab and go basis at designated sites. Students returning to campus for in-person instruction will receive their meals on campus during scheduled meal periods.

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**November 20, 2020**  
(for a complete list of FAQ's, visit [fresnounified.org](http://fresnounified.org))

**When will Fresno Unified bring students and staff back to campus for in-person instruction?**

Students and staff will physically return to campus when Fresno County reaches the orange tier. Focused on safety, stability and access to high quality instruction, Fresno Unified does not plan on bringing students and staff back to campus for in-person instruction until that time.

**What safety procedures will be in place?**

When that occurs, all state and county safety protocols are required, including PPE use, self-health screening, and physical distancing of six feet. Given that there is no scenario under which we can provide six feet of physical distance for ALL our students, our return to school, even in the orange tier, will be in phases, starting with our youngest students.

**How will students be phased in?**

Using our phased in approach, after two weeks of orange numbers, the following Monday 50% of students in TK-1 could return and secondary sites could begin phasing in 25% of their enrollment. Two weeks after that, 50% of students in grades 2-3 could return with secondary continuing to phase in up to 25% of their enrollment. Two weeks after that, 50% of students in grades 4-6 could return with a max of no more than 25% of students returning at the secondary level.

**Will families be given a choice of sending their student to campus or staying with distance learning?**

Parents will have a choice to keep their student home. Based on required safety practices (wearing a mask, physical distancing of six feet, etc.) elementary parents will have the choice of in-person instruction with their teacher on campus or remaining in the eLearn at My School model. An elementary parent survey is available from November 20 – December 3 at [Fresnounified.org](http://Fresnounified.org) for families to communicate their plans for returning or remaining in distance learning.

**How will teachers provide instruction with some students physically in class and others continuing with distance learning?**

Technology provides Fresno Unified teachers the ability to simultaneously teach students both on campus and those who remain at home. This method provides more instructional time for students and ensures students receive the same high-quality instruction whether in-person or remote. It also allows more students to stay with their teacher.