

Questions:

How will the instructional day be divided up between in-person and distance teaching?  
Morning schedules will remain as close as possible to what they currently are. Students who do not opt-in will keep their current schedules and students who choose to opt in will have additional instructional time in the afternoons.

When are we being asked to opt in?

TK-1 are being asked to begin on April 6th. All other elementary grades will begin on April 13th. SELPA will begin on April 6th or 13th depending on grade level for self-contained classes. Secondary will begin on April 20th

-If a teacher does not opt in then what happens with those teachers' students?

The district is committing to provide the opportunity for all elementary students. If the homeroom teacher cannot opt in then the request will go out to VAPA/enrichment and intervention teachers. The district is also willing to hire a sub. Teachers who opt out will still be expected to meet with their students and hold office hours in the afternoons for the half of their class who is not in person that day.

Can teachers create the two cohorts so that we have more homogenous grouping (in order to better serve those students who made little to no progress during DL)?

Yes, teachers will be able to group their students as they see fit. The only exception to that is ensuring families with siblings have priority for their children to attend the same days.

Does upper grade have a 12 person cohort cap as well?

No, once we are in red tier there is no longer a requirement for the stable cohort of 16 people maximum. Upper grades will split their opt-in classes in two cohorts as they see fit with the accommodations for families with siblings.

Does the site decide the start time?

Start times will be determined by transportation needs. Each site will have the same start time for all grade levels.

Is there a policy about teachers bringing their own children to their classroom for the in person portion of the day?

The district has offered that teachers who have school aged children will be allowed to bring them to class with them.

Will intervention/release teachers who opt in potentially be sent to other sites to provide coverage for the teachers who opt out?

No. If you have indicated that you are willing to opt in then you would cover one of the classes from your site who still is in need of a teacher.

How will release minutes work?/ What if we have release in the afternoon?

Release will continue on the same schedule. Our recent MOU stipulated that all teachers receive at least one block of release before lunch. The stipend is being offered to offset the loss of some release time in the afternoons.

Will we be given time to set up our classrooms?

We have negotiated that the week prior to return all teachers opting in will have the opportunity to prepare and set up classrooms. If you are a lower grade teacher you will hold your class meeting and SIPPS and then can provide asynchronous work after to prepare your classrooms. For upper grades you will provide the class meeting time and one instructional block and then can provide asynchronous work. There will be no office hours requirement this week and no PD. You will have site based training on safety protocols.

So, if we aren't at a cap/stable groups required, we could potentially bring our entire class all four days?

No, you will still have two cohorts each two days per week. If you have a low number of students who choose to opt in then there is a potential for having one cohort four days per week.

What is the stipend?

The daily stipend amount comes out to \$106.83. It will be prorated for teachers depending on when you start with students. If you are out sick for a day then you would not receive the stipend for that afternoon. The stipend will be paid out all at once on July 10.

What about students who meet with Speech teachers, APE, and counselors during the afternoon hours?

Schedules may need to be adjusted for students receiving DIS services. They are only on campus two days per week so can meet on the other two days or may need to potentially have more morning service time. DIS providers will continue to provide services through DL with the option of working with small groups or 1:1 if they choose to opt in.

Will teachers be assigned to pick up duty or bus duty outside of the one and a half hour window of learning? Can administrators assign that?

Teachers may need to pick students up and/or wait with students in their classrooms until buses are ready. Students and teachers should not be congregating at the bus areas. This is factored into the daily stipend amount.

Who works out the playground schedule for this??

You site administration will need to work out a schedule to allow classes the opportunity to use the playground and outdoor spaces so that we remain socially distanced.

Does the 6 feet apart change in red-tier?

Six feet apart is the recommended distance. The county guidelines state four feet.

If we end up doing state testing, will we have to use that class time for testing?

Because not all students will have opted in the state testing will need to take place during the regular DL schedule. Hopefully you have signed the petition from either CTA or CFT urging the state to waive the standardized testing requirement for this school year.

Will families also be required to commit to opting in?

The district is asking families to make a commitment to the opt in groups if that is their choice, however they legally have the right to take their child out and continue with DL only or to choose to opt in at a later date.

When did the district send the email, text to parents to opt in or out?

The email/text was sent out from the district to families on March 8th.

Is there any timeline of finding out student opt in numbers/family survey results, finding out transportation/start times and us opting in or out? or will we be asked to decide prior to knowing this info?

All of those are moving parts that will determine transportation needs, scheduling, and number of students. You will be asked to make a decision by March 14.

What is the deadline by which teachers have to make a final commitment to opt-in? We've had at least one teacher who opted-out who wants to change her mind. Is it too late? How does she do this?

The TK-1 survey has already closed. The rest of elementary grades will close on Sunday, March 14. If a teacher wishes to opt in after the deadline closes they should inform their administrator as soon as possible.

We have a teacher who has chosen to opt out but does the DL from their classroom. We need their classroom for a sub to use. Do opt-out folks have access to their classrooms in the mornings?

No. If teachers are choosing to opt out then their classroom will need to be used for their students who have opted in and the teacher who will be working with them.

Do you think they might change to a full day hybrid like Santa Cruz city school?

The district has expressed their concerns with the move to a hybrid schedule and the disruption to our current DL routines. Because all of our safety criteria has been met, teachers will be vaccinated, and the county is expected to be in red, if there aren't enough teachers to facilitate an opt-in the district may need to reevaluate this plan. It is possible we would have to go back to the table and negotiate a mandate to return.

What happens if we have more students who opt in than teachers/subs to teach them?

See answer above.

