



DESERT SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION: Ana M. Conover, Donald B. Griffith, Wendy Jonathan, Tricia Pearce, Linda Porras
SUPERINTENDENT: Scott L. Bailey

January 14, 2021

Dear DSUSD Families:

What started as a sprint, soon after the March 13, 2020 emergency school closures, has turned into a marathon. Amid the pandemic, our endurance has been tested. I applaud your perseverance as we continue to do school differently, and respect the extra energy it takes to climb the distance learning hill. As vaccinations are underway, it does appear that the finish line is in sight.

You may recall that per California's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), school districts are required to be at an adjusted COVID-19 case rate per 100k residents of 7.0 or less (red tier) in order to provide in-person learning opportunities. As of today, the Riverside County adjusted case rate per 100k residents is 107.2. Thus, with disappointment, we have no opportunity to launch the hybrid learning schedule as previously anticipated January 19.

As stated during the January 12, 2021 [Board of Education meeting](#), we are taking pause until the next opportunity for in-person learning arises. That opportunity may come in the form of new legislation. Specifically, Governor Newsom recently announced the [Safe Schools for All Plan](#), which is directly affiliated with his annual state budget proposal. Under the proposed plan, \$2 billion would be allocated to school districts to support the return to in-person learning.

The proposed Safe Schools for All Plan indicates that students in TK-2 would return first, followed by students in grades 3-6. There is presently no language in the plan that addresses grades 7-12. School districts would only be eligible to offer in-person learning if their county adjusted case rate falls below 28.0 per 100k residents. Although our current adjusted county case rate of 107.2 would disqualify Desert Sands from this opportunity, we remain resolute in our efforts to prepare our campuses for a safe return to in-person learning.

Should the proposed legislation mature quickly, in advance of our next regularly scheduled board meeting, the Board of Education would likely meet in special session to consider actions aligned to the timelines and requirements of the formalized Safe Schools for All Plan.

We continue to monitor public health data and the legislative session to determine potential opportunities for in-person learning for all students. COVID-related updates are consistently posted in the [Super Seconds](#) section of the district's homepage.

As we finish the last mile of this marathon, which often proves the most difficult, please know that social emotional resources are available through Care Solace at this [link](#), or by calling 888-515-0595 seven days per week. Additionally, the district's virtual toolkit of social and emotional wellness resources can be accessed [here](#).

On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued partnership as we work together to ensure that the world our students inherit is one of hope, opportunity, and prosperity. This three-day weekend, let's remember the timeless message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a message of peace, hope, and love.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Bailey
Superintendent

The Future Is Here!