

District Communication_Reopening of Schools in a Phased Manner

October 16, 2020

Sierra Sands Schools will Reopen in a Phased Manner:

Dear Sierra Sands Families:

As you know I sent a message to you via Parent Square on October 13. This message described the basic facts and parameters related to Kern County's transition out of California's most restrictive Purple Tier into the less-restrictive Red Tier under the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. After a mandatory two-week waiting period, school districts may choose to identify ways of physically reopening as early as Wednesday, October 28.

Given the continued restrictions and strenuous requirements by the state, County Department of Public Health, the COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan, and negotiations with all three of our bargaining units, the reopening of our schools will be most successfully accomplished by phasing, and scaling up in the coming weeks and months.

Following is the district's current plan for phasing in opportunities for students to learn on campus, in our classrooms:

PHASE 1 - Small Cohort - start in November with 9 special education classrooms (6 at Richmond, 2 at Gateway, and 1 at BHS).

PHASE 2 - Supervised Distance Learning (DL) Hubs On Campus - start in November with Tk, K, and 1st grades at all elementary schools. Priorities on attendance, participation, and engagement; and unduplicated pupil percentage student groups in order to maintain appropriate numbers for single cohorts. Scale up through the grades in November-December so that by January, many students in grades TK-12 have the opportunity to learn in supervised classrooms on campus.

PHASE 3 - Hybrid On Campus Instruction - Start date To Be Determined

I acknowledge that some families want their student(s) to be back on campus immediately. It is very important that we "roll out" phases of reopening so that we do not have to "roll back." By taking prioritized, incremental steps we will ensure safety and success as we move determinedly toward on campus learning opportunity for all students and staff.

Sincerely,
Dave Ostash
Superintendent