



CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
84 East J Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910
News Release
"EACH CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF GREAT WORTH"

For Immediate Release
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Board Authorizes Preparations for Hybrid Learning

The Board of Education on Wednesday evening approved authorizing the transition from distance learning to preparations for a hybrid instructional model.

The Board voted 4-1, with Board Vice President Kate Bishop opposed, to authorize the preparation phase for hybrid instruction to facilitate students' return. The Board majority noted that, even if conditions are met, teachers and/or students would not return prior to April 5. This would ensure teachers and staff have appropriate time to prepare without interfering with upcoming parent-teacher conferences and scheduled spring break. A Special Board Meeting is scheduled for March 16 to assess if the District is on track to move forward with in-person instruction—if San Diego County transitions to the Red Tier, as defined in the state's tiered system. Parents will be provided a two-week notice of students' return.

Under the District's agreement with Chula Vista Educators, the bargaining group that represents teachers, a key condition for reopening is that the County return to the Red Tier. The County is currently in the most restrictive Purple Tier. If current trends continue, the move to Red might take place March 9 or 16, County officials have said.

The implementation and transition to the hybrid model includes staff returning to schools five days prior to students. Starting in a hybrid format ensures that a limited number of students are on campus at any one time, allowing protocols such as social distancing to be more easily implemented.

Parents will have the option to keep their child(ren) in distance learning for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. "We have learned so much from the many school districts in San Diego County that have already welcomed back students to in-person instruction," said Superintendent Francisco Escobedo, Ed.D. "We have taken extra precautions. I have had so many teachers and staff tell me it is time. The students need us. The families need us."

The reduction in COVID-19 case rates goes hand in hand with increased vaccination rates. More than 4,200 of the approximately 4,700 District employees (including substitutes) have already received the first dose or are eligible to schedule their first dose.

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