



Durham families,

We realize these are very challenging times for all of us, and especially uncomfortable for parents trying to make the best educational decisions for their children. We assure you the Durham Unified School District is working hard to build the best plan possible to keep our students and staff safe while providing the best possible education for all of our students.

Guidance from state and local authorities changes often. The most recent guidance was released from the state on Friday, July 17. This guidance requires schools in a county on the state's watch list to open in Distance Learning only. A press release on July 20, 2020 suggested Butte County could be on the state's watchlist by July 25.

DUSD created a Planning Committee to help plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The team has been meeting weekly in an attempt to design a plan that is best for Durham.

Currently, we are developing plans based on the stages in California's Pandemic Roadmap. The attached documents will show how the district intends to implement safety guidelines, planned educational models based on the stage we are in, and procedures we will follow in the event of a positive COVID-19 test or contact with a person who tested positive.

We are getting this information out now in order to allow parents to ask questions and plan for the unique needs of their children and families. There is much work to be done, but we will have all of our plans in place for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

As the Superintendent, I am always looking for input and ideas for how we can best support our students. Please feel free to reach out to me! I can be reached via email at jbohannon@durhamunified.org or by phone at 895-4675, ext. 227.

Thank you,

John Bohannon
Superintendent

2020-2021 Safety Guidelines

Sanitation

- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed at the entry/exit point of each classroom
- Hand sanitizer units will be placed at common areas
- Disinfecting will be completed daily on high-volume touch points throughout campuses
- Cleaning protocols to ensure proper disinfecting will be reviewed and modified as needed
- Sharing of supplies between students will be minimized. When sharing is necessary, supplies will be appropriately disinfected

Personal Protective Equipment

- Durham Unified will follow face covering guidelines set by County Health Departments using guidance created by the state. Current guidance (as of July 17, 2020) requires face coverings for all staff. For students, face coverings are required for 3rd grade and above and recommended for 2nd grade and younger.
- Food Handlers and health care staff will wear all required personal protective equipment (PPE)

Health Screening

- Daily wellness checks will be administered as students get to school and classrooms (temperature checks)
- Families are recommended to take temperatures daily before going to school
- Anyone with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher may not go to school site
- Students and adults would screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms should not attend school

Social Distancing

- Social distancing signage will be in place
- Physical barriers will be installed as determined by administration in high traffic areas on campuses
- Classroom furniture and equipment will be arranged for social distancing to the greatest extent possible

California Stages of Re-Opening and DUSD's Plan

([https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Update-on-California-Pandemic-Roadmap .pdf](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Update-on-California-Pandemic-Roadmap.pdf))

Stage 1: Safety and Preparedness

- Making essential workforce environments as safe as possible

DUSD Plan: Most restrictive state stage and would require distance learning only. Would be an upgraded model with more built-in supports than the distance learning model in the spring. As of July 17, 2020, requirements from the state, districts are required to implement this plan if the county is on the state's watchlist for Covid-19.

Stage 2: Lower Risk Workplaces

- Creating opportunities for lower risk sectors to adapt and re-open
- Modified School Programs and Childcare re-open

DUSD Plan (If the Butte County is not on the state's watchlist, this is the plan that will be implemented in order to meet guidance):

- **Modified Blended Program** with only half of the student population on campus at any given time
- **Distance Learning Online Learning Program** for families that want to choose this option

Stage 3: Higher Risk Workplaces

- Creating opportunities for higher risk sectors to adapt and re-open

DUSD Plan:

- **Traditional Program with COVID-19 safety guidelines in place (When regulations by the California Department of Public Health allows)**
- **Distance Learning Online Learning Program** for families that want to choose this option

Stage 4: End of Stay at Home order

- Return to expanded workforce in highest-risk workplaces

DUSD Plan

- **Traditional Program (When regulations by the California Department of Public Health allows)**
- **Distance Learning Online Learning Program** for families that want to choose this option

What is Durham's Modified Blended Program?

The idea behind a blended program is to have some in person learning and some distance learning in order to keep our numbers of people low on campus to allow for following the state's social distancing guidelines. This model benefits students by maximizing the amount of safe and in-person interactions students have with classmates and instructors. Durham's plan is to have half of our students attend on Monday and Wednesday and the other half attend on Tuesday and Thursday. On days a student is not physically attending school, they will be engaged in distance learning. Fridays would be a Distance Learning day for all students and a teacher work day for teachers. The Teacher work day on Friday could include extended instruction for some students in need of additional support.

Sample Weekly Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students in Group A	In-Person instruction at School	Distance Learning	In-Person instruction at School	Distance Learning	Distance Learning*
Students in Group B	Distance Learning	In-Person instruction at School	Distance Learning	In-Person instruction at School	Distance Learning*

* This day will be used for teacher planning and possible small group instruction (most likely virtually through Zoom or Google meet). Teachers will bring the class(es) together via technology once per day.

What will Distance Learning Look like in Durham?

Durham will purchase Acellus Online Learning. This program offers online instructional videos and full curriculum for K-12 students. For students in the blended model, Teachers will assign the appropriate courses for students to utilize in distance learning. Students will have some in person classes/content and some online.

For families and their students who choose the full distance learning model, as opposed to attending two days on campus, a teacher or teachers will assign a full schedule of Acellus classes and support students and families successfully navigate the curriculum.

If Butte County is on the state's COVID-19 watchlist, this will be the model for all students until the state changes the status.

Positive COVID-19 Tests and Confirmed Contact

Durham Unified will follow the guidance of the Butte County Health Department regarding protocols for the following situations:

- **When a staff member or students tests positive for COVID-19**
- **When it is safe for previously infected or exposed staff or students to return to school**
- **When a student of staff member has close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case**

Durham Unified is working with all Butte County school districts and the Butte County Department of Health to develop consistent protocols to follow. They are now being updated in response to the most recent guidance released by the state on July 17, 2020.