

Friday Update, October 16, 2020

Good evening Sulphur Springs Families, this is Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi, your Superintendent with your Friday Update, October 16, 2020.

At the Board meeting on October 14th, I had the opportunity to share information regarding the TK-2 waiver application process. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is allowing school districts to apply for in-person instruction in grades TK-2. When schools apply for the TK-2 waiver, each school must submit a letter of support from both certificated and classified unions. In addition, schools need to either have a letter of support from a Parent Organization to reopen the school or show favorable responses on a Parent Survey to reopen.

Once the application is completed and submitted, Department of Public Health will reopen schools based on the number of students qualifying for free or reduced-priced meals. Schools with higher percentages of students qualifying for free or reduced-priced meals will open first. In addition, the Department of Public Health is opening no more than 30 schools each week in LA County with 6 schools in each supervisorial district.

If other schools in other districts do not have their applications in to request to reopen, then the Department of Public Health will grant schools to reopen who have an application submitted. The Board of Trustees has provided me direction to move forward with the application process, and I will work with each of the Principals to gather their needed documentation of support from unions and parents. Once a school has the required paperwork, then the application will be submitted to the Department of Public Health.

Also, Department of Public Health clarified that when schools bring back students for TK-2 in-person instruction, the school is able to bring all of the TK-2 students back. Schools are not restricted on the number of students to bring back. At the Board meeting, I mentioned that schools can only bring back 10% of its total student population, and this is incorrect. When schools are permitted to reopen for TK-2, we will reopen under the AM/PM model with Learning@Home still being an option for those parents that choose to have their child continue in that program.

I will continue to provide you updates on our process to submit our applications to reopen our TK-2 student population. Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend. Thank you.