

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
PALO ALTO EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**

**2020-2021 SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Grades 6 -12) INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULES
IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Palo Alto Unified School District and the Palo Alto Educators Association sets forth the parties' agreed upon negotiated effects of District decisions regarding the establishment of 2020-2021 secondary schools instructional schedules in a COVID-19 environment.

- I. Shared Interests: This MOU is based on the following shared interests of the parties:
 - A. Meet the diverse educational, social emotional needs of all students.
 - B. Protect the safety of all students and staff.
 - C. Acknowledge the professional expertise of educators on how to innovate to meet student needs through individual and collaborative creativity and ingenuity.
 - D. Provide as much flexibility as possible to allow for adjustments in the delivery of education to students based on mandates or recommendations from governmental entities.
 - E. Provide as much consistency as possible in the instructional schedules regardless of the degree to which education and learning occur remotely or in person.
 - F. Allow for candid and constructive conversations among all educators so that "course corrections" can occur quickly and with the least amount of disruption to teaching and learning.
 - G. Provide clarity about what teaching and learning look like when students are not designated to be in physical attendance on a school day.
 - H. Establish and manage expectations of teachers, students, parents, and the District community.

II. This MOU specifically addresses the Secondary Schools Instructional Schedule ("Bell Schedule".) Negotiable matters pertaining to the 2020-2021 School Year currently being negotiated also pertain to the Elementary Schools Instructional Schedule. Other matters which may be the subject of future negotiations may include: Leave Provisions, matters described in section III. F and G below, and other changes in negotiable working conditions not already covered by and in compliance with the negotiated Agreement (Agreement).

III. The Bell Schedule to be adopted by the Board of Education provides for all secondary schools to begin instruction through distance learning except as provided in section III. E, F

and G below. Physical return to school for students (In Person Learning) will be evaluated routinely according to relevant guidance. All schools and classes will follow an established routine schedule with synchronous components. There will be opportunities for students to visit campuses for targeted small-group interactions, such as students who require extra support on campus. Extra-curricular activities will be available in socially distanced settings following guidance from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

A. Schedule: The parties acknowledge that the schedule is in compliance with, and exceeds the contractual allotment for Secondary Preparation /Planning /Conferencing (Article XIII Working Conditions B), which provides as follows: “Full time classroom teachers at the middle and high school levels shall have two sevenths (2/7) of the instructional periods for the purpose of instructional preparation, individual and joint planning, parent and staff conferencing, and student support. The classroom teacher has the professional discretion to use the time within these purposes.”

B. Article IX (Class Size), section A (Class Size Staffing Ratios) shall apply to classes.

C. Teachers will be expected to be on campus during their work day. **The district will find an individual work space for all teachers that share classrooms.** Teachers who have a medical note with specific restrictions/accommodations will enter the interactive process.

D. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with requirements related to group gatherings as determined by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department. Further, the parties acknowledge the benefits of participation in both virtual and, to the extent possible, in person meetings.

E. In order to meet the special and different needs of all student populations, some students may physically attend school and receive In Person Instruction five days per week as early as the first instructional day. Special Education and Futures class teachers who provide such In Person Instruction direct instruction five days a week will receive their full contractual allotment of prep time and will not be responsible for distance learning. **The district will assess the size of those classrooms and the number of adults, including specialists, who can safely be present at the same time according to the County’s social distance requirements of 6 feet. If square footage is determined to be inadequate the district will look for another space for these classes.**

F. The parties agree the Bell Schedule should be tailored to meet the unique needs of incoming middle school students, especially to facilitate an effective transition from **5th to 6th grade.** to grades 7 and 8. Accordingly, the Bell Schedule for 6th graders may reflect a significant degree of in person instruction under a Hybrid Learning Model from the commencement of the 2020-2021 school year. **(note: we need to see the schedule for this before we can sign an agreement. This doesn’t keep one cohort with one teacher or possibly the required 6 foot minimum social distancing).**

G. The District is in receipt of PAEA’s July 3, 2020 demand to negotiate impacts of the 6th grade return to school plan (as well as a later daily start of school time for

secondary grades), and will meet its legal obligations to bargain over effects of these decisions not already covered by and in compliance with the Agreement.

IV. Calendar

A. Two of the three Staff Development days in the calendar will be moved to August before school starts. The student instructional year will consequently start later than the currently scheduled start date. The student end date remains the same and the Certificated Calendar remains unchanged.

B. Professional Development Prior to the Start of the 2020-2021 School Year. All secondary teachers shall may complete, prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, learning modules designed specifically for the teaching models being established. Completion of the modules will take approximately 10-12 hours, for which each teacher shall be paid a stipend of \$600 \$684 per the Professional Development Hourly Rate, Appendix H of the Collective Bargaining agreement or shall earn 12 hours towards units for salary advancement.

C. Professional Development Provided During Staff Development Days. The content, provided virtually, of these days shall center on instructional practices and technology tools most relevant to the educational model being provided to students, and may include:

1. Blended Learning, Flipped Classrooms, Schoology, or other content or delivery models identified as helpful to instruction that the District is able to provide.

D. Back to School Nights will be delivered virtually in a synchronous manner for the 2020-21 school year due to anticipated restrictions on large group gatherings. Each site staff and administrator shall consult to determine a uniform method for providing the back to school night sessions.

1. Article VII (Hours), section B (Minimum Days) shall apply to Back to School Nights that are conducted synchronously.

E. Article VII, A.6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement shall apply for grade 6 teachers who hold parent-teacher conferences.

V. Safety Provisions

A. With the safety of students and staff central to our reopening plan as stated in Shared Interest I. B. above, PAUSD is committed to measures which will be monitored and may be revised or supplemented, including but not limited to:

1. Adherence to the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's direction and guidelines. (attached)
2. A dedicated discretionary fund for the superintendent to quickly address safety issues arising after reopening.
3. Cleaning and spacing protocols consistent with section A.1. above.
4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all staff members as recommended in the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's

direction and guidelines which may, in the appropriate circumstances, include:

- a. Masks for staff and students - an amount sufficient to meet each site's needs.
 - b. Face Shields for educators and paraprofessionals with the cloth attachment as recommended by Santa Clara County Public Health Department.
 - c. Disposable gloves an amount sufficient to meet each site's needs.
 - d. Smocks to wear over clothes for staff -an amount sufficient to meet each site's needs
 - e. Plexiglass shields or three-sided cubbies for work that require a closer distance than the recommended 6 feet.
 - f. Hand sanitizer - preferably automatic hand sanitizer dispensers inside doorways
 - g. Hand washing stations
5. Designated entry and exit points as determined to be practicable for the unique design of each school facility.
6. Social Distancing Safety Protocols and Procedures for access to classroom and non-classroom facilities and areas.
- a. **Students must use cloth face coverings at all times.**
7. Enforcement protocols: The District shall develop procedures to promote consistent adherence to and enforcement of established safety protocols, including risk assessments (e.g., ventilation systems) and PPE supply inventory.

VI. Childcare: The District will continue to pursue availability of cost effective options for staff requiring childcare.

Childcare will be provided to staff who need it for their school aged children. (note: teachers were explicitly told that the district will be providing child care.)

VII. Leave Provisions:

- i. Unit members who have been exposed to the coronavirus and are required to be quarantined, "sheltered in place," or who self-quarantine based on medical advice or governmental recommendations/directives shall remain in paid status and not have days deducted from the member's sick, personal, or extended illness leave. This provision shall take effect for the 2020-21 school year.
- ii. If a teacher is sick, not suspected to be Covid-19 related, but feels well enough to teach from home, they can do so without calling in substitute, which could be very hard to procure during this time. (Note: A substitute cannot access the distance learning materials)

VIII. Evaluations: Article X Evaluations shall continue to apply for the 2020-2021 school year.

1. Evaluations shall be completed for the 2020-2021 school year based on the observations, data, etc. gathered during in-person observations. Target dates will be extended so long as the summary

evaluation of performance is completed and issued to unit members, at least electronically, by May 1, 2021.

2. Based on individual circumstances, upon unit member request and with the written agreement of the unit member's evaluator, the 2020-2021 evaluation cycle may be carried over to be completed in 2021-2022 if long term/multiple school closures occur during the 2020-21 school year in a manner determined by the evaluator in consultation with the member.
3. All timelines and deadlines related to teacher support plans - formal, informal, or by any other designation - shall be suspended if collective bargaining timelines cannot be carried out due to school closures. Resumption of such plans shall be determined by the evaluator in consultation with the affected unit member when schools are reopened for in-person instruction.
4. Unit members shall not be evaluated specifically on the manner and means with which they deliver distance learning during any period(s) of school closure. Rather, teachers shall be held to the same standards of professionalism they have always aspired to meet and which applied prior to school closure and distance learning.

IX. Miscellaneous Provisions

- A. If the exclusive method for delivery of education returns to distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year, the attached Distance Learning Schedule shall be implemented (which may vary by school).
- B. If there is a return to In Person Instruction District-wide, by schools or by one or more grade levels within a school, the parties agree to retain the current bell schedule as much as practicable (e.g., for logistical reasons, a later student daily start time may no longer be feasible). In recognition of members whose job assignments have them at two or more school sites, reverting to the prior bell schedule will make it impossible to teach all of their classes.
- B. Staff will be given at least one week notice **two weeks notice or more** to effectively prepare should a change in circumstances result in instructional model changes. The District understands that it is important to provide as much notice as is practicable under the circumstances.
- C. D. The parties acknowledge that additional subjects may arise as events unfold and governmental entities issue more guidance, including the safety of students and staff as schools reopen. The District will continue to follow the Guidance of the CDC and the Santa Clara County Health Department and other governmental entities related to pandemic health and safety matters.
- E. The District and the Association are jointly committed to maintaining open lines of communication to facilitate prompt discussion and resolution of issues (including during days of school recess as necessary) that may arise as schools reopen for the 2020-2021 school year to best serve their Shared Interests first stated above.
 - F. Further, the District has extended a voluntary retirement incentive of \$2,500 in one lump sum payment for eligible PAEA members who are over the age of 60 as of June 8, 2020 and who submit an irrevocable resignation to be received by the District on or before July 17, 2020. (note this was already offered to staff and doesn't need to be in the MOU)

[End]

USEFUL DEFINITIONS SECTION:

Distance Learning: The model of learning involving solely synchronous and asynchronous learning without In-Person instruction.

Hybrid Learning: The model of learning involving a combination of scheduled instruction in-person and asynchronous instruction from their teacher.

In-Person Learning: The model of learning involving all, or nearly all, instruction in an in-person setting with a teacher.