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## **ETIWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE TO FAMILIES**

**October 8, 2020**

*We will continue to provide updates about how the pandemic is impacting our schools through our district website, email communications and our social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter). We encourage you to check these platforms regularly.*

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**Have Questions or Need Assistance?** - Our District Office and school offices are open to assist families. Additionally, questions can be emailed to [ESDAssistance@etiwanda.org](mailto:ESDAssistance@etiwanda.org).

**Please note that due to a scheduled Student Recess Day on October 12th, all school offices and the District Office will be closed.**

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We are grateful for the strong partnerships that have allowed a unique, yet successful start to the 2020-21 school year. Everything is possible when we work together on behalf of our children.

Our district is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 transmission rate in our county. San Bernardino County is currently placed in the Purple "Widespread" tier based upon the most recent report. Our county has not yet moved to the Red "Substantial" tier, and remained in that tier for two consecutive weeks, which could allow for in-person instruction with social distancing. We are hopeful that COVID-19 trends will improve.

Consistent with the desire of the Board of Trustees to open schools as soon as it is safe to do so for both students and staff, at this time we are cautiously planning for the potential reopening of school campuses. In addition, we are preparing a waiver to submit to the county which, if approved, would allow the district to begin the process of reopening elementary schools with safety and social distancing protocols in place. The Department of Public Health does not currently allow waivers for intermediate schools. Because of the fluid nature of the pandemic, and the need to monitor COVID-19 data, no specific date for the return to in-person instruction has been determined at this time.

When safe to do so, schools in our district will welcome students enrolled in the AM/PM Hybrid Learning Model for on-campus learning. This learning model allows for the required safety measures including physical/social distancing to be in place.

Preparing for this adjustment is a monumental step for our community and one that requires a great deal of advance planning to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and families. An

essential element of this planning process is determining whether or not families would like their children to remain in the learning model selected at the beginning of the year.

**We need all families to update their learning model preference by completing a learning model selection form for each student enrolled in the Etiwanda School district.**

**A student-specific form will be emailed to all families next Wednesday, October 14. Please complete this form after your family has carefully considered all options and submit no later than Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 11:59 PM.**

For the remainder of the 2020-21 school year we will continue to offer the Virtual Learning Model and EASE Home School to families who would prefer their child(ren) participate in one of these options. We encourage families to carefully consider the learning model options prior to making this selection. For more information about each option, please view the [learning model information](#) or the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the COVID-19 page of our district website. Families may also view this brief [video](#) describing the Hybrid Learning Model.

It is important to note that as we transition to offering an on-campus learning option some class and teacher changes may be necessary. As soon as the model preference information has been collected, we will begin staffing our schools accordingly and reassigning students to classes as necessary so families are asked to thoughtfully complete the learning model selection form.

**Health and Safety** - The [Etiwanda School District's Safe and Healthy Learning and Work Environments guidelines](#) contains important information all families should know about school and classroom safety protocols prior to selecting the hybrid learning model. This is a fluid document that is updated as guidelines from health officials are adjusted. Current guidelines require all staff and students in grades 3-8 to wear a face covering while on campus. Students in preschool through grade 2 are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering while on campus. A face shield is an acceptable and encouraged alternative for young children.

**Busing and Childcare** - As we move closer to offering the Hybrid Learning Model, several families have asked questions about busing and the availability of childcare. While busing for general education students has been suspended for the 2020-21 school year, students with transportation indicated in their IEP will be offered transportation to/from school. School site childcare programs will only be available for students enrolled in the Hybrid Learning Model and an interest list is being developed by the Childcare program. Childcare space is limited as a result of new COVID-19 guidelines. Priority will be given to families who need four full days of childcare in order to fully utilize space availability and families that registered for childcare for the 2020-21 school year in February. Schools with impacted childcare requests will maintain an interest list and as space becomes available, children on the interest list will be admitted based on a lottery draw. Information on how to put your name on the interest list for the Etiwanda PLUS Childcare program is now available on the [childcare website](#).

Schools will return to a traditional/normal schedule as soon as state and local officials indicate that it is safe to relax social distancing measures.

We look forward to sharing additional information with families as we move forward and thank you for your patience and flexibility as we continue to navigate this school year.