



RETURN TO SCHOOL STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES

For more information about the district's return to school plans, please visit www.pylusd.org/returntoschool.

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Wednesday, July 8, 2020

- **The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's (PYLUSD) Return to School Steering Committee met for the second time on Wednesday, July 8, 2020.**
- Superintendent Dr. Greg Plutko shared about the district's continued efforts surrounding the opening of school in Fall 2020. Specifically, he talked about the Educational Services Department and how administrators are working around the clock to develop **adaptable plans for all health scenarios**. This includes options for both hybrid and full online learning if changes in state and county requirements do not permit otherwise. He also mentioned the successful first week of the district's **child care reopening** at four school sites—Bryant Ranch, Linda Vista, Van Buren, and Wagner elementary schools. In addition, Dr. Plutko emphasized his **appreciation for the ongoing collaborative efforts** of the district's employee associations, APLE and CSEA, as all safety and return to school options for fall are developed.
- Eddie Tabata, Coordinator of STEM and Special Projects, shared a summary of data from the district's **four Parent Focus Groups** and **three Teacher Focus Groups** asked to provide feedback about PYLUSD return to school plans. The four Parent Focus Groups included parents of elementary, middle, and high school-aged students, as well as special education students. The Teacher Focus Groups included teachers from all grade levels. **A meeting has been scheduled to solicit feedback from the district's Classified Employees Focus Group.** The district collected input from nearly 100 PYLUSD parents and 90 teachers in these groups relative to the areas of health, wellness, logistics and safety, curriculum and instruction, child care, and communication.
- Rick Lopez, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, then shared information about the Orange County Department of Education's (OCDE) **"Orange County Together: School Reopening Checklist."** PYLUSD will follow all checklist recommendations included below:
 - Develop a written worksite specific plan
 - Provide relevant training for employees and students
 - Plan individual control measures and screening
 - Implement thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocols
 - Promote physical distancing guidelines

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Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (Continued)

OCDE's Orange County Together: School Reopening Checklist is available to view at <https://ocde.instructure.com/courses/669>.

- In the **priority area of health**, Michelle DeHaven, Lead School Nurse, shared about her team's recent work continuing to develop the health and safety plan for Fall 2020. This includes information about handwashing and hand sanitizer use, physical distancing guidelines, use of face masks, signs and symptoms checks, illness guidelines, and safety considerations for students with disabilities.
- In the **priority area of wellness**, Neha Shahpatel, Coordinator of Special Education, explained her team's continued work establishing routine and structure, building students' confidence to return to school, creating universal screening to determine mental health needs, and addressing social isolation and anxiety. A reminder about the district's **[employee assistance program](#)** (EAP) was also shared at this time. This **benefit is available to all full and part time PYLUSD employees** regardless of if they are benefited, as well as their families. The program offers resources for managing stress, grief/loss, elder/child care information, and much more.
- In the **priority area of logistics and safety**, Richard McAlindin, Executive Director of Instructional Support, shared his team's work scheduling **school site walks** at all 34 PYLUSD campuses. Together with principals, the team will establish the following items and more during these walks:
 - Directional flow of campus
 - Isolation room for symptomatic students/staff
 - Signage locations
 - Bus/parent drop-off and pick-up locations
 - Hand sanitizer/hand washing station locations
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) storage locations
 - Student spacing in classroom

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Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (Continued)

- In the **priority area of curriculum and instruction**, Dominique Polchow, Director of Elementary Education, and Dr. Cary Johnson, Director of High School Education, explained their team's continued work developing **hybrid and online return to school schedules for all grade spans**, establishing support plans for English language learners, and meeting with high school math department chairs to develop a plan for addressing learning gaps.
- In the **priority area of child care**, Paula Sitar, Director of Expanded Learning, discussed her team's continued work as they **welcomed 120+ students back to child care** on Monday, July 6. To participate, families fill out a daily wellness check form and students receive a temperature check. She reported that, "...parents and students are glad to be at child care and back to normal activities."
- In the **priority area of communication**, Alyssa Griffiths, Public and Media Relations Specialist, discussed her team's work establishing **communication materials** in order to effectively share return to school plans with families and employees before August 10, 2020. Next week, the District will share a comprehensive announcement about [Buena Vista Virtual Academy](#) with all stakeholders.
- **The PYLUSD Return to School Steering Committee will meet again on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 for an extended work session.**

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Wednesday, July 1, 2020

- **The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's (PYLUSD) Return to School Steering Committee met for the second time on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.**
- Superintendent Dr. Greg Plutko shared about Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement earlier that day, including the repeated closing of certain business sectors as a result of COVID-19 spread in California. He reminded committee members that, although state and local guidance continues to shift on a day-to-day basis, the district must continue to compile an adjustable plan for Fall 2020 with **student and staff safety as the top priority.**
- Eddie Tabata, Coordinator of STEM and Special Projects, **shared data collected from the district's four Parent Focus Groups** tasked with providing feedback about PYLUSD return to school plans. **The four groups included parents of elementary, middle, and high school-aged students, as well as special education students.** The district collected input from nearly 100 PYLUSD parents in these groups relative to the areas of health, wellness, logistics and safety, curriculum and instruction, child care, and communication. Return to School Steering Committee members were then asked to evaluate this data and identify themes throughout the area of health. Some of the topics of interest to PYLUSD parents included:
 - Social/emotional well being of students and staff
 - Stigmatization of illness—both COVID-19 and non COVID-19 related
 - Support and opposition of state mandated mask requirements
 - Social distancing logistics
 - Attendance for sick students and staff
 - Shared responsibility

A summary of the parent input collected in the remaining five priority areas will be shared with Return to School Steering Committee members at next week's meeting on July 8. **Feedback from employee focus groups** including teachers from each grade span and classified staff will also be presented to the group.

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Wednesday, July 1, 2020 (Continued)

- Dr. Linda Adamson, Director of Assessment and Accountability, then shared information about **AB-77, the Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill**, approved by the California Legislature on June 23, 2020. Some of the bill's highlights include guaranteed funding, decreases in mandatory instructional minutes, and guidelines about distance learning instruction, attendance, unfinished learning mitigation, early education, and nutrition services for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Carrie Bisgard, Director of Instructional Support, then shared an overview of the district's **new online K-12 school, Buena Vista Virtual Academy**. Buena Vista Virtual Academy, which is [now enrolling students](#) for Fall 2020, is a WASC-accredited and UC-approved school set to feature personalized learning options for students of all ages with the help of highly qualified PYLUSD teachers. Students in grades K-6 will participate in daily Zoom sessions, engaging curriculum, hands-on learning, and more. Middle school students will meet twice weekly with subject area teachers, have access to open office hours, and learn with Apex digital curriculum. High school students will have the option to choose from three pathways— independent, hybrid, or accelerate—to best meet their learning needs. For more information about Buena Vista Virtual Academy in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, please visit www.buonavistavirtual.org or call 714-986-7026.
- In the **priority area of health**, Michelle DeHaven, Lead School Nurse, shared about her team's recent work developing a draft plan to implement health procedures for Fall 2020. This plan takes into account guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA). The health work group also reviewed and updated a draft of the PYLUSD Illness Guidelines to include COVID-19 and non COVID-19 symptoms with a list of set actions to be taken.

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Wednesday, July 1, 2020 (Continued)

- In the **priority area of wellness**, Renee Gray, Executive Director of Special Education, explained her team's continued work surrounding wellness resources for students and staff, as well as measures being put in place to meet the needs of all special education students for the new school year.
- In the priority area of logistics and safety, Bradd Runge, Director of Maintenance and Facilities, shared his team's work procuring **personal protective equipment (PPE)** for all sites district-wide including, but not limited to:
 - Clear shields for teacher and staff desks district-wide
 - Clear shields for all student desks district-wide
 - 110,000 disposable non-woven fabric masks and 5,000 clear masks
 - 1,040 boxes of disposable gloves
 - 1,600 bottles of hand sanitizer
 - Nearly 5,000 packs/buckets of alcohol wipes
 - 3,000 hand sanitizer dispensers for classrooms
 - 100 large stand up hand sanitizer dispensers for common areas at all district sites
 - 120 no touch thermometers
 - 1,500 face shields for employees
 - 4,800 units of antibacterial soap
 - 1,600 units of disinfectant spray
- In the **priority area of curriculum and instruction**, Dr. Cary Johnson, Director of High School Education, explained his team's continued work developing and assessing various return to school models and creating a comprehensive cleaning plan for PYLUSD Summer Sports Camps.
- In the **priority area of child care**, Paula Sitar, Director of Expanded Learning, discussed her team's work preparing for the opening of [Summer Camp 2020](#) on Monday, July 6, 2020 with health and safety measures in place. Comprehensive training for all child care summer staff took place on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

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Wednesday, July 1, 2020 (Continued)

- In the **priority area of communication**, Alyssa Griffiths, Public and Media Relations Specialist, discussed her team's work creating informational videos to show various return to school practices and procedures including classroom set ups, cleaning/disinfecting protocols, washing/hygiene practices, and more.
- **The PYLUSD Return to School Steering Committee will meet again on Wednesday, July 8, 2020.**

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Wednesday, June 24, 2020

- **The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's (PYLUSD) Return to School Steering Committee convened for its first official meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.** The group includes parents, teachers, staff, association representatives, and district and school administrators.
- In addition to our PYLUSD Return to School Steering Committee, a number of **Priority Area Teams** have been created throughout the district to gather additional viewpoints of parents, teachers, and staff in order to continue building plans for the opening of school in September. These teams will report information back to the Return to School Steering Committee in order to create domain-specific flows of information to support effective decision making.
- Committee facilitators Rick Lopez, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Dr. Linda Adamson, Director of K-12 Assessment and Accountability, opened the meeting with introductions and a discussion about the **goals and objectives of the group.**
- The Committee then discussed the **results from the District's Return to School stakeholder survey** distributed to all families in May 2020. Of the nearly 4,000 responses, 88.2% of parents/guardians indicated that, if state and local guidelines permit, they would plan on sending their student(s) to a traditional school format in the fall. The other 11.8% of respondents stated that they would rather consider an alternative option for school in the fall including the District's new K-12 virtual academy, independent study, or Parkview Homeschool rather than a traditional instruction format.
- Members then received an overview and preliminary information regarding the **six priority areas** identified as Committee focal points. The priority areas are:
 - Health
 - Wellness
 - Logistics and Safety
 - Curriculum and Instruction
 - Child Care
 - Communication

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Wednesday, June 24, 2020

- In the **priority area of health**, Michelle DeHaven, Lead School Nurse, explained her team's work reviewing evidence-based health practices for reopening schools. She elaborated on next steps in the area of health including the development of a plan for screening students/staff for COVID-19 symptoms, implementing thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocols, promoting physical distancing guidelines, and more.
- In the **priority area of wellness**, Renee Gray, Executive Director of Special Education, shared her team's work identifying staff and services available to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff upon their return to school.
- In the **priority area of logistics and safety**, Bradd Runge, Director of Maintenance and Facilities, explained his team's work purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) and procuring thermometers and cleaning/disinfecting supplies. He expanded on next steps in the area of logistics and safety including exploring the use of various safety equipment, identifying directional flow of campus to maximize physical distancing, and more.
- In the **priority area of curriculum and instruction**, Dr. Cary Johnson, Director of High School Education, shared his team's work shifting in-person processes such as registration online, establishing the District's new K-12 online school, [Buena Vista Virtual Academy](#), and more. Next steps in this area include establishing guidance and new expectations for distance/blended learning models of instruction, planning for access to online curricula, and more.
- In the **priority area of child care**, Paula Sitar, Director of Expanded Learning, discussed her team's work surveying parents on summer/fall child care needs, developing an adaptable plan for Fall 2020, training employees on safety and health practices, procuring PPE for all sites, and the opening of child care programs beginning this July.

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Wednesday, June 24, 2020

- In the **priority area of communication**, Alyssa Griffiths, Public and Media Relations Specialist, shared her team's work establishing a communications plan for sharing committee information with all stakeholders, creating a web page for all PYLUSD return to school information, and designing preliminary signage for district buildings. Next steps in this area include exploring different means of communication for articulating health and safety measures and crafting a comprehensive plan for Fall 2020 to share with stakeholders by August 10, 2020.
- Committee members were then tasked with providing **additional ideas** for each priority area to consider.
- **The PYLUSD Return to School Steering Committee will meet again on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.**

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Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District RETURN TO SCHOOL STEERING COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATES

ABOUT - STEERING COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) Return to School Steering Committee is to provide a coordinated location for the Priority Area Teams to report, receive feedback, and communicate our collective efforts in the common goal of safely returning to school in the Fall of 2020.

ABOUT - WEEKLY UPDATES

In alignment with the committee's Priority Area 6, *Communication*, the District will provide weekly updates to families, students, and employees regarding the discussions, decisions, and actions of the Return to School Steering Committee. All PYLUSD staff members and families will be notified on a weekly basis via email and text message when new updates are posted.

MEETING SCHEDULE / UPDATES

*Click a specific date below to navigate to the update from that meeting.

<u>June 24, 2020</u>	<u>July 1, 2020</u>	<u>July 8, 2020</u>
<u>July 15, 2020</u>	<u>July 22, 2020</u>	<u>July 29, 2020</u>
<u>August 5, 2020</u>	<u>August 12, 2020</u>	<u>August 19, 2020</u>

PRIORITY AREAS

Health 	Wellness 
Curriculum and Instruction 	Logistics and Safety 
Child Care 	Communication 

