



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #47 – Week of April 12, 2021

Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

1. Will high school seniors who met the requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy be honored this year in a virtual ceremony? Thank you!

Yes, we will be celebrating our hard working recipients of the Seal of Biliteracy at a virtual ceremony on May 25th. The event will begin at 6:00 PM and will highlight the benefits of multilingualism and the significance of the Seal itself. Once we process the applications, we will be sending out invitations to the recipients.

2. What exactly are the new student ID tags for? What kind of data/information will they be collecting/storing/tracking? Who has access to this data? And what kind of security measures are being put in place to ensure that personal information about our children cannot be leaked or hacked? As far as I'm concerned, collecting any medical data about my child (temperature, possible "symptoms") and then storing that information in a school/district database verges on crossing the line regarding HIPAA laws.

The purpose of using a Student ID card is to allow sites to quickly and efficiently get students to the classroom while at the same time following safety protocols to minimize potential exposures to Covid-19. The Student ID tags contain the student's name, grade, school site, Student ID number, and a barcode for that Student ID number. The Student ID barcode is scanned after their temperature is taken and before the student goes to class. The information that is gathered at that time is: 1) the name of the student, 2) their student ID number, and 3) whether the student is cleared to go to class. This data is stored in a secure database that is only accessible by site administration, school nurses and a small number of district administrators. Neither the temperature nor any possible symptoms are collected when students are scanned. If a student has a temperature, has indicated that they are feeling sick, or has indicated that they have possibly been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, the student will be brought to the health office and will be evaluated by the School Nurse or Health Technician.

3. When are we going back to in person full time like every other district is?

We will be providing full day, full time in person learning beginning in Summer School and continuing onto the 2021-2022 school year.

4. Newson states California will be "opened" on June 15th, why will PVUSD not commit to in person learning for next year? My child's class has more than 20 students, therefore, only allowed to go 2 days a week. If this is the case next year, I want to make arrangements to find other options out of PVUSD. PVUSD has committed to full day in-person learning for the upcoming school year. The commitment was first noted in the [letter to the community](#) on March 24, 2021 and followed up with additional information within the Ask Dr. Rodriguez FAQs.

5. **Can you please explain to me the logic behind sending kids to school for only two and a half hours for 4 days a week vs their normal bell schedule times? I want to know what makes the difference of sending them half day instead of a whole day is? If it is because the teachers are still having to teach the kids who opt'd not to return to in class learning then why don't you having them being enrolled in the distant learning academy instead, since we set aside distance learning teachers strictly for that type of learning and which then would allow for the teachers to teach their normal class every day.**

PVUSD quickly made the shift from all students receiving two days of afternoon in-person learning to all students receiving four days of afternoon in-person learning, after the physical distancing requirement was reduced from six to three feet. For the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, PVUSD believes that, due to current facilities, staffing and transportation restrictions, we are providing in-person learning to the fullest extent possible for the last nine weeks of this school year.

Currently, approximately 40% of our families wish to finish the rest of the school year in distance learning only. This requires PVUSD to maintain a significant number of staff to serve those students and families. For the 2021-2022 school year, we do not anticipate that families will have the option for distance learning apart from our Virtual Academy. For the remainder of this year, we are legally required to continue to provide distance learning to families who wish to remain in distance learning. PVUSD Virtual Academy is an excellent option for some families but cannot provide the instructional support needed to serve over 6,000 students (approximately 250 teachers). In addition, PVUSD transports 5,500 students daily to the school sites. Given the current requirement of 50% capacity on the buses, we are working with local agencies to increase our capacity to transport students to our school sites. These changes will allow us to refocus our resources and hire additional staff to enable us to provide full time, full day, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

6. **For students opting in for in person learning, will parents still have to call them in as sick or for doctor's appointments?**

Yes, please continue to notify the school office if your child will be missing afternoon instruction. Teachers are planning for students to be there so they can help to maximize learning during this established time. This will also help to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

7. **What are parents supposed to do about having less than 30 minutes to feed students and get them to class in the afternoon?**

Most sites begin afternoon instruction at or after 1:00pm which provides students with an hour to eat lunch and travel to their school site. For the five sites that have an early start of 12:35pm, the morning schedule has been modified to end at 11:30am or 11:45 am based on bus pick up schedules to provide that additional time. If an individual student needs additional time, the parent can work with the teacher to allow the student to leave distance learning with enough time to allow for the transition to in-person instruction.

8. **Hello Dr. Rodriguez, I am the parent of a 1st grader. My daughter has been looking forward to seeing friends in person and playing on the playground at school. However, when she returned to school last week, she was told that students were not allowed to play on the playground. I am confused, because I have heard from parents at other PVUSD schools that they have organized zones on the playground that the classes rotate through, and that they have 15 minutes of play per day. I am confused as to why the 1st graders at our school are not allowed to play on the playground, especially given that parks and playgrounds around Watsonville are open. Can you please clarify?**

Peer to peer interactions and play are important for mental, physical health as well as academics. Elementary sites have been asked to create playground or outdoor schedules during that time and organize their playgrounds in zones as they teach students games and how to engage in a safe return to play behaviors using equipment and the playground structures. These zones limit group size of students. The playground structures are being disinfected each day and students are washing their hands after each use to ensure the safety of the

students. Please connect with your school's principal if you have additional questions regarding the use of the playgrounds.

- 9. With the new information coming from the state allowing for greater flexibility with state testing and the possibility of using other standard aligned assessments, will PVUSD be able to use the MAP assessment in lieu of the SBAC this year? It would be great to minimize the amount of instructional time taken up with state testing with the already limited amount of time available.**

Yes, the District will be using the *NWEA-MAP Growth* assessments in lieu of SBA assessments for the 2020-21 school year. The *NWEA-MAP* tests will be administered remotely this spring as done earlier this school year. Testing will be scheduled during morning distance learning sessions so as not to take away from in-person instruction. Arrangements will be made for students with unreliable Internet to be brought to school during the morning session in order to complete testing.

- 10. There is a lot of confusion amongst classified staff regarding in-person instruction. We were told it was optional, and now we're being told it's required. Can we have clarification?**

As we are bringing more students back to in-person instruction through the staggered approach, more staff is being asked to return to the sites to support students. As of next week, all students (Preschool through age 22), will have the opportunity to be back on campus for in-person instruction. Based on program and student need, IAs and BTs have been contacted and notified that they need to report to their school sites to support in-person instruction. Returning to work has not been optional for our instructional assistants or behavior technicians who are identified to support students and programs; although a 48 hour notice is required to report for in-person instruction.