

District Communication January 4, 2021



SIERRA SANDS Unified School District

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Happy New Year, and welcome back to the spring term at Sierra Sands Unified School District!

On Dec. 30, California Gov. Gavin Newsom pledged his support for a statewide plan to safely return students to schools.

Sierra Sands shares our governor's concerns about health and safety of our students, teachers and staff — including the mental health and the social-emotional needs of those who have been suffering. With that in mind we began welcoming back students who are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic as soon as it was permitted by the state. Since we have already opened up cohorts for special needs students and small-group hubs for transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade, we only need to expand this on-campus instruction to second-graders in order to achieve Phase I, as outlined by Newsom. Planning for the expansion of these services will begin immediately so that we can be assured that we are timely and that we can put the appropriate precautions in place.

Newsom's \$2 billion "California's Safe Schools For All Plan," which is still being refined in our legislature, is built on four pillars — funding; safety and mitigation; oversight and assistance; and transparency and accountability. (For details, see gov.ca.gov/2020/12/30/governor-newsom-unveils-californias-safe-schools-for-all-plan/)

The plan was developed in partnership with professionals in health care, education and public advocacy.

As this plan is refined by our legislators, Sierra Sands remains in close touch with the state and county agencies that can help us determine the requirements, implementation, timeline and impacts in our district. We look forward to obtaining more clarity on this plan, and sharing it with you.

Sincerely,
Dave Ostash
Superintendent