

Yuba City Unified School District

July 29th, 2020

Dear YCUSD Community,

Below are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding YCUSD Distance Learning for the 2020-2021 school year. There are significant changes regarding Distance Learning so please review and share with your child. Please make sure to continue to check your email, Aeries Parent Portal, and district/school websites for further updates.

When will school start?

Albert Powell High School (APHS) and Yuba City Independence Academy (YCIA) will begin on Thursday, August 6th. All other YCUSD schools will begin on Wednesday, August 12th.

Why are we starting the school year in a Distance Learning format?

Governor Gavin Newsom announced on Friday, July 17th, that counties on California's COVID-19 monitoring watchlist will not be allowed to open the school year with in-class instruction. Unfortunately, Sutter County is on this list. Therefore, all Yuba City Unified schools District schools will begin the 2020-2021 school year with a Distance Learning format. [Click here to view the California Department of Public Health COVID-19 County Data Table.](#)

Why did the Board decide on a 4x4 schedule for Yuba City High School? Is it permanent?

On July 20th, the YCUSD Governing Board voted to move Yuba City High School to a 4x4 schedule in response to the Governor's order to start the school year in a full distance learning format due to COVID-19. By implementing a 4x4 format at YCHS it will simplify distance/blended learning for students and allow them to focus on only four classes during this timeframe.

The Board did not take action to make this 4x4 model permanent; therefore, any decision to make this permanent would require further discussion and action by the YCUSD Governing Board.

Is there a difference between Distance Learning and Independent Study?

Yes, Distance Learning and Independent Study are two different learning models:

- **Distance Learning** is instruction in which the student and teacher are in different locations: the student is at home and the teacher is in their classroom. Distance learning will be provided through your child's school of attendance.
- **Independent Study** is an alternative to classroom instruction provided through an online curriculum. Independent study is voluntary and is provided through the Yuba City Independence Academy (YCIA).

How will my child know who their teacher is and how to get started?

Parents can check the Aeries Parent Portal after August 6, 2020, to find out who their child's teacher will be for the 2020-2021 school year. Families can expect contact from their child's school and/or teacher as we approach the first day of school. You will be asked to verify and update registration for your student through the Parent Portal at this time as well.

Will there be meal service during Distance Learning?

Yes, during Distance Learning, YCUSD Nutrition Services will continue to distribute meals to students Monday through Friday from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM. Breakfast, Lunch and Supper will be distributed together in a drive through/walk up service at the following locations:

- Andros Karperos
- April Lane
- Barry School
- Bridge Street
- Gray Avenue Middle School
- King Avenue
- Lincoln Elementary
- Lincrest Elementary
- Riverbend
- Butte Vista
- Park Avenue
- Tierra Buena Elementary
- River Valley High School
- Yuba City High School

What if my child needs a computer?

[To check out a Chromebook, sign up for an appointment here.](#) The YCUSD IT Department will contact you to let you know when a Chromebook is ready for you.

What if my student doesn't have access to the internet?

Internet Service Providers (ISP) are offering specials to connect families to the internet. AT&T and Comcast are taking immediate steps to help connect low-income families to the Internet at home. [Click here for more information.](#)

What if my child has technology problems?

If your student experiences technical problems please visit our Technology Help Desk [website](#). If you can not find an answer to your problem, you can contact the Information Technology Help Desk at (530) 790-2569 Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm for assistance with your student's technology issues.

Will my child receive grades during Distance Learning?

Yes, your child will receive grades during Distance Learning. The "hold harmless" state directive will not apply for the 2020-2021 school year. It is critical that your child fully participate in distance learning. K-5 students will receive standard based report cards assessing their progress during Distance Learning. Letter grades will be issued for all 6th through 12th grade students. High school courses will be posted on transcripts and be used for graduation requirements and college applications.

Will attendance be taken?

Yes, education is compulsory and children must "attend" by checking-in daily with their teacher and in their Google Classroom. Daily attendance will be taken by the teacher, and students who do not participate will be marked absent. If your child is ill or unable to participate in Distance Learning that day, the expectation would remain that you would call the school office to excuse them. The school office will be calling home to verify absences and lack of engagement. Non-engagement and lack of participation will be monitored by the school and may result in truancy.

What will my student's distance learning look like on a daily basis?

Parents will receive a weekly schedule with daily assignments from their child's school and teacher after August 6th. State requirements for Distance Learning for the Fall are far different than the end of last year. There will be required minutes for each content area for all grade levels, and the school day will have increased structure to engage students more fully. Daily

bell schedules will remain similar to the normal grade level schedules for your child's school site. Teachers will connect with students and their peers online each day.

Will my child receive special education services?

Yes, special education services will be provided through a Distance Learning format.

Will my child receive school counseling services?

Yes, our school counselors will be providing counseling services, classroom lessons, and support to our students and families through a remote, distance counseling format.

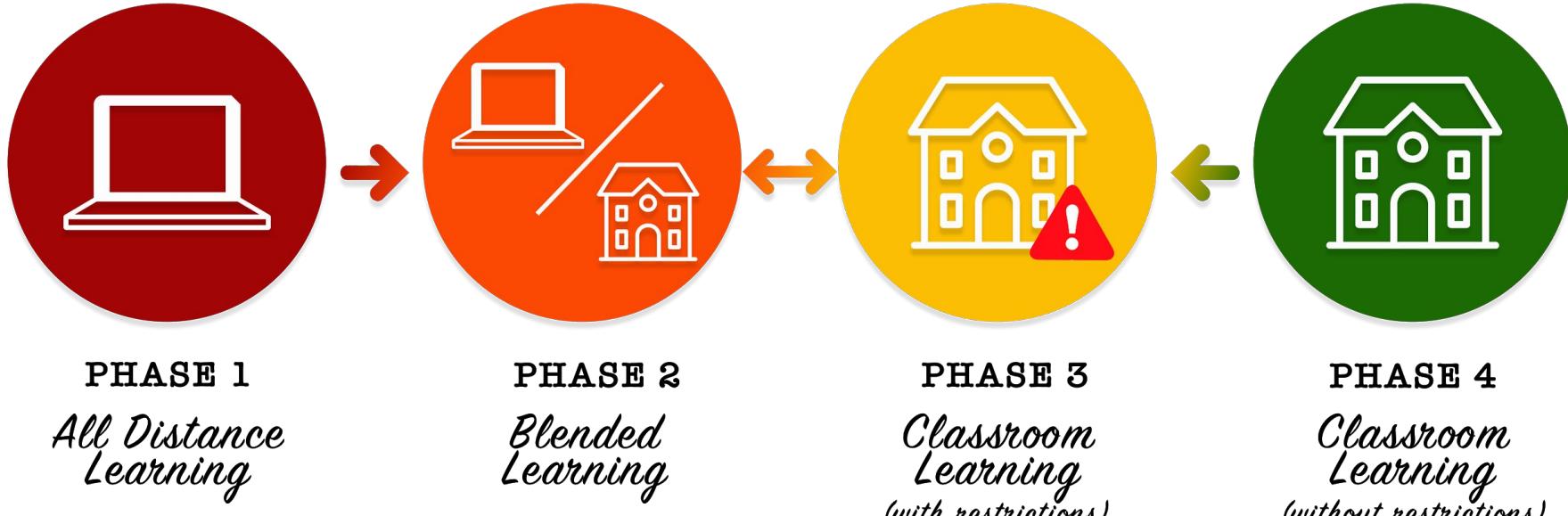
When will my student athlete be able to resume school sports?

On Monday, July 20th, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) announced that in collaboration with the ten sections, education-based athletics for the 2020-2021 school year will begin with a modified sport schedule. It is anticipated that sports will commence in December 2020. Please check with your student's school athletic director for specific sport start dates. You can also find all athletic information at the [CIF Sac-Joaquin Section website](#).

When will the district transition to in-person instruction and how will that occur?

Before we can transition to an in-person learning model Sutter county must not appear on the state Monitoring List for 14 days, this list can be found on the [California Department of Public Health website](#). YCUSD will follow the public health guidelines and the District's Phases to Open School process which can be viewed on the next 5 pages.

Phases to Open School



This framework provides guidance on the level of in person instruction that can be accommodated based on circumstances associated with the health pandemic. Movement is fluid and dependent on health orders/guidelines. If Social Distancing is in place, the number of students that can be accommodated on a school campus at one time is approximately 50%.

PHASE

1

All Distance Learning

- School Facilities closed to the public
- All students learning from home
- Order for Distance Learning from authorized agency

PHASE

2

Blended Learning

- 50% of students are at school at one time
- Optional Distance Learning for families to select
- Social Distancing
- Frequent Disinfecting
- Attention to hygiene
- Masks strongly encouraged for students preschool through 2nd
- Masks required for ALL students in grades 3rd through 12th and ALL staff
- Limited size of gatherings based upon current orders
- Modified meal service
- Extra-curricular activities and athletics possible depending on orders

PHASE

3

Classroom Learning (with restrictions)

- All students on campus together
- Optional Distance Learning for families to select
- Frequent disinfecting
- Promote healthy hygiene practices

- Masks strongly encouraged for preschool through 2nd grade
- Masks required for ALL students in grades 3rd through 12th and ALL staff
- Restrictions on gatherings, guests, field trips, athletics, extra-curricular clubs
- Social Distancing

PHASE

4

Classroom Learning (without restrictions)

→ No restrictions

→ Optional All Distance Learning for families to select

→ All students on campus

→ Continued focus on proactive health measures