



From the Superintendent's Desk

Weekly Update From Supt. Jerry Almendarez

Nov. 16, 2020

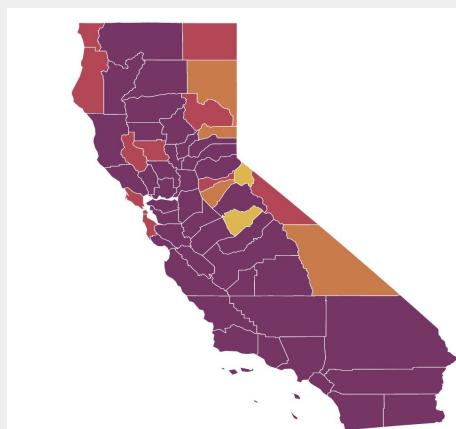


Dear SAUSD Community,

On Monday, Orange County and 27 other counties were moved back to the most restrictive [purple tier](#) of California's color-coded tracking system in response to an alarming spike in new coronavirus infections. While this does not change anything we are currently doing in SAUSD in terms of instruction, this serves as a stark reminder that we are moving in the wrong direction as we work to contain this pandemic.

Gov. Newsom says that California is "experiencing the fastest increase in cases we have seen yet — faster than what we experienced at the outset of the pandemic or even this summer."

Again, I want to encourage our community as we enter the flu season and families begin planning for the holidays to continue to practice safety measures, including mask wearing, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings if possible. These rates have to come down in order for all our students to have the opportunity to return to in-person instruction.



Latest News

Learning Labs

We have expanded our Learning Labs to nine campuses this week, bringing back 378 students in a safe and supervised environment to access their virtual classroom. Each Lab includes 14 or fewer students per cohort. We continue to plan on opening more Learning Labs each week through December. (It's important to note that the District can continue opening these Labs even under the state's purple tier because they involve very small groups of students per campus, and strict health and safety guidelines are being met.)

Current Learning Lab sites

Elementary

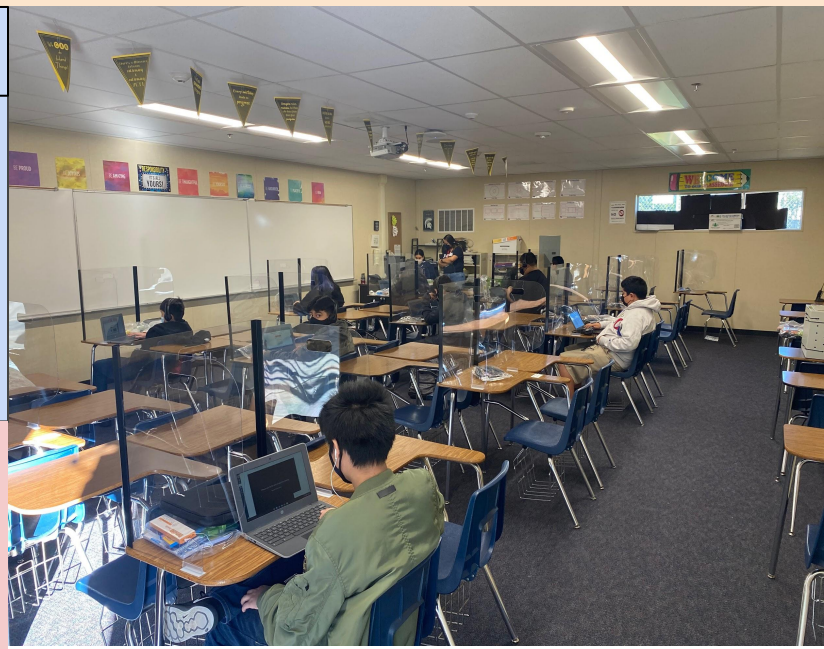
- Advanced Learning Acad. (4th)
- Davis
- Heninger
- Madison
- Taft

Intermediate

- McFadden
- Lathrop

High School

- Valley
- Santa Ana



Click [here for more information](#) and answers to some common questions about Learning Labs.

COVID-19 Data

Here are the latest COVID-19 positivity rates for Santa Ana and surrounding communities

Source: O.C. Health Care Agency (prepared Nov. 10, 2020)

City	Population	Case Count 7-day + 7 day lag (Excludes Inmates)	Case Rate (7-day day average, Excludes Inmates)	Adjusted Count 7-day + 7 day lag (Excludes LTCFs and Inmates)	Case Rate per 100,000 (7-day day average, excluding LTCFs & Inmates)	Testing Positivity Percent (7 day avg. + 7 day lag)
Anaheim	359,339	231	9.18	227	9.02	5.6%
Costa Mesa	115,830	52	6.41	52	6.41	3.5%
Fountain Valley	56,652	30	7.56	30	7.56	3.8%
Garden Grove	175,155	90	7.34	90	7.34	5.3%
Irvine	280,202	73	3.72	73	3.72	2.5%
Orange	141,691	58	5.85	58	5.85	3.5%
Placentia	52,333	44	12.01	44	12.01	7.0%
Santa Ana	337,716	201	8.50	201	8.50	7.2%
Tustin	81,369	30	5.27	30	5.27	5.3%

Visit www.sausd.us/coronavirus for free resources and testing information regarding COVID-19.

Other News

Updating SAUSD Student Grading Procedures

As we continue in this virtual learning environment, we want to support our students as best we can and make necessary adjustments to ensure they have the best opportunity to succeed. Last week, our Board of Education discussed making changes to the District's grading practices to address challenges of remote learning while keeping rigorous academic standards in place.

We will soon provide more specific information regarding these changes. We will address how the District plans to improve interventions and support for students falling behind, and how the District intends to approach grading through a more compassionate lens. This will include adjusting how teachers grade homework, late work, and synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 15

- Public session begins at 6 p.m.
- To livestream visit sausd.tv
- [Agenda will be available here](#)

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