

From the Superintendent's Desk

Weekly Update From Supt. Jerry Almendarez

October 18, 2021



Dear SAUSD community,

Our COVID-19 positivity rates continue to trend in the right direction. The positivity rates for all the zip codes in SAUSD are now below 3.6%. We also continue to have very few confirmed positive cases at our schools each week, and the number of students and staff we need to quarantine is also dropping.

But again, this is not a time to let our guard down. If you have not done so and are eligible, I encourage you to please get vaccinated. Also, for our SAUSD parents, please complete the testing consent form for your child if you have not already done so.

Vaccinations and regular testing are among the strongest weapons we currently have to battle this pandemic. We must do all we can to protect our community as we enter the cold and flu season.



Latest News

BY-TRUSTEE AREA BOARD ELECTIONS PUBLIC HEARINGS



6-8:00 P.M.

Monday, October 18, 2021 Santa Ana High School (Bill Medley Auditorium) 520 W. Walnut St. Santa Ana, CA 92701

Monday, November 8, 2021

Century High School (Auditorium) 1401 S. Grand Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92705 Monday, October 25, 2021 Godinez Fundamental High School (Auditorium) 3002 Centennial Rd. Santa Ana, CA 92704

Monday, December 6, 2021

Segerstrom High School (Auditorium) 2301 W. MacArthur Blvd Santa Ana, CA 92704

Proposed By-Trustee Area voting

The Board of Education recently approved a plan to study the process of establishing Trustee Areas and elections By-Trustee Areas that would take effect commencing with the November 2022 election. By-Trustee Area voting is a method of electing members to the school board in which candidates must reside within a trustee area and the candidates are elected only by the voters residing in that trustee area. SAUSD currently elects its Board of Education members through an at-large election system. Under this system, candidates for the Board of Education can reside anywhere within SAUSD's boundaries.

The process for transitioning from the current voting system to a By-Trustee Area election system requires four public hearings to obtain input from the public. The first two public hearings are to discuss the criteria for drawing trustee area boundaries. The second two public hearings are to discuss the proposed trustee area maps.

Where to draw the trustee area boundaries should reflect the needs and interests of the community. Public input will assist the Board of Education in determining which proposed map best suits the needs of the school district. Here are the upcoming public hearings being held across the District.

COVID-19 Data

Here are the latest COVID-19 positivity rates and trends for zip codes in Santa Ana Source: O.C. Health Care Agency (prepared Oct. 15, 2021)

ZIP code	Population	Case Rate per 100,000 (7-day day average, excluding LTCFs & Inmates)	Testing Positivity Percent (7 day avg. + 7 day lag)
92701	55,137	4.1	3.4%
92703	68,242	2.9	1.6%
92704	89,021	5.0	3.6%
92705	47,039	7.9	2.8%
92706	37,260	6.9	2.4%
92707	62,175	3.4	1.9%
Orange County Averages		7	2.7%

Visit <u>www.sausd.us/covid-resources</u> for free resources and testing information.



Upcoming Board Meeting

Oct. 18

- Public session begins at 6 p.m.
- To livestream visit <u>sausd.tv</u>
- <u>Agenda will be available here</u>

SAUSD fully supports new California Ethnic Studies law

As you may have heard, California will add ethnic studies to its list of courses required to graduate from high school. Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed <u>Assembly Bill 101</u> into law, making California the first in the nation to list ethnic studies as a graduation requirement for all public high school students, starting with incoming ninth-graders in the 2025-26 school year.

SAUSD fully endorses this new legislation and considers ethnic studies vital to prepare our students to become well-rounded individuals who can compete in a global workforce. More than a year before the Governor signed this new bill, the SAUSD Board of Education had unanimously approved a plan to create a new graduation requirement for ethnic studies for students in the District.

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