



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Current Pacifica School District Learning Models

### General Questions/Information

**When is the last day to submit a survey (choosing model)?**

Monday, August 3, 2020 at 11:59 pm

**Do I fill out a survey for each child in our household?**

Yes, one survey per student

**Can I change my response if I've already submitted by survey?**

Yes

**What will happen with the waitlist for 2020-2021? I don't want to lose my spot on the waitlist.**

Placement from the waitlists will be frozen during the 2020-2021 school year following the formation of classes in the Full Year Distance Learning Program.

**Will I lose my spot at my child's school if I choose to do my own homeschool program?**

Yes

**When is the first day of school?**

We are scheduled to start school on August 19th. **There is a chance that the start day is moved back to August 20th to allow for more time for professional development.**

**Once we choose a model, can we change it during the school year? If a vaccine becomes available, can I switch my child's learning model?**

Typically, classroom placements are made for a year. When we have the responses, we will match staffing with the enrollment for class sizes of 24 students to one teacher or 32 students to one teacher for 4-8th grade. In extreme circumstances, if it is determined that your child requires a change in the placement, you can work with the teacher and administrator to consider possible modifications. A change in placement could be one of those modifications, if there is room in a classroom at that grade level.

**If we choose the continuum model but then don't feel comfortable when PSD decides it is time to return to in-class learning, what are the options at that point?**

If a parent chooses the continuum model your child will be assigned to a teacher at her/his school. When it is deemed safe to move to the hybrid phase of the continuum model and the parent does not feel safe with their child returning to in-class learning and wants to transfer their child to Full time Distance option, they would need to request a transfer and be placed IF there are spots available in the Fulltime Distance Learning Program.

**My child is in Special Education, I don't know which model to choose?**

We can help you make the decision with a phone call. You can speak with Julie Carrillo, Director of Special Education or Jen Gray, Program Supervisor of Behavior and Related Services. Your child's principal would be a valuable resource. If you are interested in a conference with the principal and either Jen Gray or Julie Carrillo please contact Michelle Pimm at [mpimm@pacificasd.org](mailto:mpimm@pacificasd.org).

**Will we get more information on Special Day Classes? Related Services?**

Parents with students in Special Day Classes are invited to meet with the Director of Special Education on Thursday, July 30th from 6:15 to 7:00 pm via Zoom. Meeting link and passcode was sent on July 29th at noon.

**What will the day look like for all learning models? Is there a schedule? (Days of week on/off for DL) I understand that it is 2 days on 3 days off. Would they have their regular teacher for the 2 days? What happens on the 3 days off? Do they get DL or are they expected to work on their own? If they have DL on the days off, which teacher would do this?**

The best place to find this information is on our website in the presentation entitled Safe Return to School Plan and Continuum Learning 7.15.20. The hybrid model is described in that presentation. Students would have their classroom teacher for two days. While students were in their distance learning days, they would complete work that is an extension of the work students were doing in class.

When we first return to school, we may start slowly and have students return home before lunch. That would permit the teacher to check in with students who were working at home. As we progressed, we may put more of a priority in the in-person classroom learning and students would work more independently at home (with the acknowledgement that not all students can work independently).

In the continuum, students would have one teacher so the capacity to support students at home would be limited to the time available. We will explore ways to support that learning at home.

In a recent survey, 48.6% of parents selected the AA/BB model which would be Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. More information will be shared at the August 5th Board meeting on the Continuum model schedule.

**Will the DL model and continuum model follow the same curriculum?**

Yes, both the Full Year Distance learning and the Continuum model will follow the same district adopted curriculum.

**What will the class size be for K-2?**

Currently our class size at TK-2 is 24 students with +1

**What size are you aiming for in the DL groups?** The Distance Learning teachers will have the same class sizes as the Continuum model (24-25 for K-3; 32 for 4-8)

**Will my child have interaction with a teacher the same way he would if he was doing the continuum model?** Interactions for the Distance Learning program will include daily live virtual interactions. Interactions with the Continuum when shifting into Hybrid will include two days of live in-person interactions and 3 days of at home learning with check-ins from teachers through google classroom.

**What is the distance learning schedule? How much time will be taught synchronously and how much will be asynchronous?**

That has not been determined yet. Instruction will include some synchronous whole group meetings, synchronous small group instruction and asynchronous learning. The amount of time in each has not been determined. In general, the amount of time of instruction and assignments per day for students will be:

- TK/K - 3 hours
- 1-3 - less than 4 hours
- 4-8 - 4 hours

It will include a combination of digital and non-digital work.

**How often will the teachers meet synchronously with the students?**

There will be daily or frequent synchronous meeting time. Synchronous work may include some whole group instruction, small group instruction and individual check-ins, office hours or assessment. We are still establishing the weekly schedule.

**Will District teachers be teaching? Have the teachers participated in the online learning training? Will we have contracted teachers? Are the teachers credentialed?**

Yes, our teachers will be teaching both the Continuum model and the full year of distance learning. We have about 140 classrooms and 30 teachers attended two weeks of training on distance learning. As we start the school year, we will focus our district professional development on distance learning.

**Will the Distance Learning teachers collaborate with the Hybrid (Continuum) teachers?**

Yes, both Distance Learning and Continuum teachers will be teaching the same standards and using the same instructional materials. We will develop time and structures for teachers across the district to collaborate.

**My family needs flexibility. How can we participate in distance learning if parents are working during the day?**

We hear the need for flexibility and we are required to monitor student attendance and progress. We will find a way to do this that allows families to work at different times or days.

**My child will be at daycare during the day. How could she participate in distance learning?**

We are working with the three largest childcare providers; City of Pacifica, Temporary Tot Tending (TTT) and Boys and Girls Club. Students can use district provided Chromebooks and we will provide wireless if they don't have it at their site. (Families may be asked to provide headphones). Students should be able to complete most of their distance learning during the day at daycare.

**When will students in the Continuum model return to school?**

This is a complicated question but here is a way to think of the return to school. We will return to school when students and staff are able to return to in-person instruction safely. It would make sense to look at the data and our ability to respond to health and safety requirements every 6 weeks. We have School Board meetings every three weeks.

We will continue to monitor the public health data. San Mateo County was just placed on the state monitoring list. Jefferson Union High School District will be in distance learning for the first semester. At the end of September, we can look at what is happening and make the next step. It may be early November when we are able to consider moving students in the continuum model from distance learning to some in school learning.

**What is the District's criteria as to getting back to the classroom? Will PSD be adhering to the 14 day without a new case guideline before beginning in class instruction? What happens if parents don't feel safe with the guidelines and answers that you give us when going back into the classroom begins? What does the District deem as "safe"?**

The criteria for returning has not yet been established. San Mateo County is now on the monitoring list. We will not return to school prior to 14 days after San Mateo County is removed from the list and there are a number of requirements to return.

Fourteen days without a new case guideline is too restrictive in this era of the pandemic.

If parents are concerned about not feeling comfortable with returning to school when classroom instruction begins, they may consider the full year distance learning option.

**What is the schedule once we do move to in-school?** The instructional minutes requirements are reduced by the state in an effort to offer teachers more flexibility during distance learning. 180 minutes in Kindergarten, 230 minutes in 1st through 3rd and 240 minutes in 4-8th grade.

**What happens in school? Do the kids get to have recess and lunch together or are they isolated from each other?**

When we first return to school, we will be in separate smaller groups. Students would eat lunch with their classmates either outside, in the classroom or physically distanced in the lunchroom. Lunch times will be staggered to minimize contact with other students. Students will go to recess together. The current thinking is that students would not share equipment and that they wouldn't play on the playground equipment. (We all hope that changes when we come back).

**Is it possible to pair with another family in order to support a "stable" cohort outside of school? Can my child be placed in class with their friends or our childcare arrangements?**

Yes, there is room on the form to include names of other students. Please include the other student's first and last name. We acknowledge that this situation is causing great challenges for families, work schedules, and child care. We will try to accommodate family needs when we can.

**How can I ensure my child is not in the Monday instruction so he/she doesn't lose instruction on a Federal holiday?**

There are four Monday holidays during the school year, 9/7, 10/12, 1/18 and 5/31. We could switch one of those days to a "B" day so that students had the same number of days of in person instruction. It is hard to know what to expect in January and May.

**There was a survey sent out previously that I completed but there is no mention of the results of that survey to indicate if/when we do return to in school learning if it will be an AA/BB or AB/AB schedule?**

That has yet to be determined, but it will be either AA/BB or AB/AB. We should know that by the end of next week.