



SUPERINTENDENCY COUNCIL

Thursday, March 18, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Via WebEx

KATIE MCNAMARA, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Katie McNamara, Superintendents' Council President

- Katie welcomed the Superintendents and asked for a volunteer note taker
 - Edgar Lampkin volunteered and will capture notes during the meeting

2. Identifying Pressing Issues

Katie McNamara, Superintendents' Council President

- This is intended to be the Superintendents' Council regular meeting but all are welcome today due to how communication was sent, and content is likely to be helpful to all Superintendents

Edgar Zazueta, Senior Director, ACSA Policy & Governmental Relations

- Edgar asked for people to use the chat box to identify 1) pressing issues that are not listed on our agenda and 2) things you want to hear your colleagues discuss (what's working well in their districts, areas of concern, information they can share, etc.)
 - For example, how things are working for the "Hybrid" model
- Dr. Wesley Smith, ACSA Executive Director, reinforced Edgar's request and thanked everyone for being present and providing input

3. ACSA Survey Results and Opportunities for Schools

Alice Petrossian, Partnership Executive

Dr. Alina Dorian, Dean of Public Health Practice and Dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Dr. Michael Prelip, Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Anna Peare, Program Manager for Schools at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

- Here is the link to the recorded webinars Dr. Dorian mentioned:
<https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/pages/virtual-training-academy>

- Upcoming dates for the Risk Communication Training are: April 16, April 30, and May 7. All are Fridays from 9am-12:30pm. Here is the direct link to register if you are interested:
https://uclahs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4MVPAXKsEMAHOGG
- Wes introduced Alice Petrossian, Partnership Executive at ACSA, and Alice shared the purpose of the survey and acknowledged the UCLA team who conducted the survey
- Dr. Michael Prelip began the presentation: In December 2020, we asked you to participate in a survey to better understand the specific concerns of school administrators surrounding school reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to identify areas of programmatic interventions. Input received and voice was critical in every planning meeting with state department of public health and San Francisco. He thanked everyone for the survey input
- Dr. Alina Dorian (Dean and former assistant principal) presented slides:
 - 66 total participants from across the state
 - 44% from school districts with 1,001-10,000 students
 - 38% in districts serving pre-school through high school students
 - 41% already reopened (prior to December 2020)
- Key Challenges
 - Accessing Information
 - Confusing, changing and inconsistent information
 - Too many stakeholders
 - Alone in the process
 - Reopening
 - Adequate staffing
 - Parental fear/pushback and pressure
 - Unions
 - Testing capacity
 - Transportation
 - Vaccines
 - Budgets and funding
 - Equity
 - Communication
 - Changing/unclear guidelines/mixed messaging
 - Relaying timely and effective communication
 - Access issues
 - Misinformation
 - Building trust and transparency
- School-Facing Opportunities: ([Virtual Training Academy](#))
 - [Principal Practices for Safe Schools](#)
Goal: To provide a platform for school administrators to ask topic-specific questions and engage in conversations with public health subject matter experts.
 - Weekly/Bi-weekly on Thursdays from 4-5pm
 - Archived on Safe Schools Hub
 - Topics covered:
 - Stable groups and CDPH reopening guidelines
 - Exposure management in schools

- School-based COVID-19 transmission
 - School-based COVID-19 testing
 - Upcoming topics:
 - Ventilation and disinfection (**TODAY – 3/18**)
 - Stable groups in middle and high schools (4/1)
 - School-based sports (4/15)
 - Risk Communication in Schools During COVID-19 (Live)

Goal: To use risk communication best practices to enhance actions related to COVID-19 prevention, screening and treatment and prevention of school and community transmission.

 - 3.5 hour training for K-12 school administrators
 - 4 trainings to date
 - 143 participants to date
 - Upcoming training dates:
 - Friday, April 16
 - Friday, April 30
 - Friday, May 7
- Questions?
 - Dr. Alina Dorian: adorian@ucla.edu
 - Dr. Michael Prelip: mprelip@ucla.edu
 - Anna Peare: apeare@ucla.edu

4. Updates

- **Assessments:** *Diana Vu, Legislative Advocate, dvu@acsa.org*
 - [NY's statement on denial of a blank waiver](#)
 - [NY's blanket waiver request](#)
 - [State Superintendent Board of Education Approves Additional Testing Flexibility for Schools This Spring](#)
 - Important action taking place this week
 - Hearing from ACSA members has a big impact on the state board, they do enjoy hearing from the practitioners
 - The State Board of Education met Tuesday, March 16 to finalize California's federal flexibility request on assessments. The board unanimously voted to allow LEAs the option to use an assessment that best meets their local context as long as it meets the following requirements:
 - Are aligned with California Common Core State Standards for ELA and mathematics.
 - Are available to assess students in grades three through eight and grade eleven.
 - Are uniformly administered across a grade span, school, or district.
 - Provide results that can be reported to parents/guardians, educators about individual students, and to the public by school and by district and are disaggregated by student group.

- This item builds on the board’s previously approved flexibilities, including:
 - Decoupling assessments from the federal accountability system.
 - Removing the requirement to meet the 95% participation rate.
 - Waiving CA science tests all together.
 - CDE has stated that they have been working with the U.S. Department of Education in order to expedite the process, but no definite timeline has been provided. In addition, CDE will begin proactively developing reporting guidance for LEAs planning on using non-summative assessments, provide outreach to the field, and work with the Legislature to decouple assessments from the California Dashboard.
- **Physical Distancing Requirements: *Edgar Zazueta***
 - [CalMatters Article](#)
 - CDC is in the process of reconsidering the 6ft social distancing recommendation. Science has evolved and now know that if you are wearing a face mask, 6ft may not be necessary. The result is looking like a 3ft physical distance recommendation
 - The governor mentioned that they were going to look at the CDC and CDPH changes to possibly make changes on in-person instruction guidance
- **Court Order- CDPH Guidelines Court Order: [Legal Order PDF](#)**
 - A San Diego County judge issued a temporary restraining order Monday blocking California from enforcing a wide swath of rules that limit and regulate school openings, saying that the state has denied children their right to an education by forcing many to stay in online learning.
 - Superior Court Judge Cynthia Freeland granted the restraining order to a group of northern San Diego County parents who sued several state leaders last month to overturn the school reopening framework rules that the state issued in January. The lawsuit argued that the rules were unfairly preventing schools from reopening. The court order temporarily overturned the state’s denials of requests by Poway Unified, San Dieguito Union High and Carlsbad Unified school districts to reopen their middle and high schools for regular in-person instruction while San Diego County is in the purple tier. The order appears to potential invalidate spacing requirements as it relates to classroom space.
 - ACSA is working closely with the districts involved and the state to decipher what broader implications may be for the rest of schools in California.
 - A legal implication “the state did not have the legal authority to mandate physical distancing requirements or to direct changes treating secondary differently than elementary schools” that applies to all districts despite this lawsuit being only for 3 school districts.

(This is has become a constitutional matter and applies statewide, according to judge ruling). The state may appeal; however, is looking at reacting to this legal implication. The state did indicate that they were not requirements, that they were recommended guidance

- COVID safety plan and many of the other requirements are still to be followed and in place.
 - The three districts as defendants are needing to prove and respond to the judge using science and research to back up their stance. (The judge relied heavily on the Massachusetts study and appears to be overriding all the local orders as it being a constitutional matter) The 3ft. distancing change may become a reality as this legal matter is unfolding
- **In-person Commencement Guidance:** *Diana Vu, Legislative Advocate*
 - Laura and Diana provided an update on “In-Person Ceremonies” – only applies to outdoor events
 - [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#): Outdoor Graduation Guidance (Pg. 5)
 - Graduation Commencement will be based on what Tier you are in...effective April 1st
 - Purple: 100 people or fewer (with two invitations)
 - Regional visitors (120 miles)
 - Advances reservations only
 - No concessions or concourse sales
 - Red: Max 20%, includes suites with 25% occupancy per suite and suites no more than 3 households
 - Weekly worker testing program
 - In-state visitors only
 - Advanced reservations only
 - Primarily in-seat concessions (no concourse sales)
 - Orange: Max 33% occupancy
 - In-state visitors only
 - May increase to 67% if vaccines have been completed
 - Yellow: Max 67%
 - In-state visitors only
 - Primarily in-seat concessions
 - This document is generic for outdoor activities, and does not explicitly state “Graduation Ceremonies” and will need to be deciphered, hopefully the surrounding districts can collaboratively come to some agreement on how they will conduct their commencements and outdoor activities
 - **Federal:** *Jason Henderson, Legislative Analyst*
 - \$130B allocated nationwide about \$13B going to CA
 - Allowable uses are similar to CARES Act and there is large flexibility to address short term needs to get around the pandemic
 - There needs to be a 5% by state set aside to address learning loss and 20% set aside at the district level

- Tracking of attendance and remote instruction, maintenance of effort and equity needs to be spent on 2018-2019 for years 2020-2023
- Broadband...there was allocation for \$7B
- Education piece is \$3B (more to come on this piece)
 - Good news overall on the front to help and support our schools. There is flexibility needed and that will be focus

5. Post-Reopening Priority Issue Discussion

Edgar Zazueta, Senior Director, ACSA Policy & Governmental Relations

- **Collective Bargaining:** Depends on what your MOU says. New changing regulations will depend on what your MOU says. You will need to work with our own attorneys to determine what may need to be renegotiated
 - The state is indicating that “we schools should be providing in-person instruction to the largest extent possible”
 - There is not much clarity on this and could be challenged
 - Edgar gave an example on the possible outcome of the San Diego legal ruling of 6ft vs. 3 ft. physical distancing and this applying to all districts.
 - Will this then need to be renegotiated in your district? This will depend on what your MOU indicates
 - Another example was given by Edgar Z. on how planning for the Fall will need to be and will there be guidance by the state? How will that look? It is still to be determined and defined.
 - How this gets defined will also impact collective bargaining
- **Distance Learning to be Allowed into Next Year:** This will be a big focus on planning for the Fall
 - Instructional Minutes would need to be flexible and legislation will need to be provided
 - Edgar Z. encouraged the Council members to participate in April’s Legislation Day so we can provide input on these items to legislatures
- **OSHA Emergency Regulations:** They are going to need to make some modifications and changes
 - Unions pushed back on this and want the regulations to remain
- Katie mentioned how important it is to hear from Superintendent’s Council members and thanked all for their advocacy and involvement
- Edgar Z. and the rest of the advocacy group expressed how important it is to hear from the Council. We provide guidance and direction for the advocacy group
- Wes Smith, ACSA Executive Director, also reinforced the importance of the Superintendent’s Council and how they provide guidance and advocacy for ACSA to do its work. He encouraged all of us to continue to do so

6. Q&A

- Questions were answered from the Webex chat box

7. Adjourn (11:20AM)