

The County of San Diego said schools may reopen on Sept. 1. When will San Diego Unified reopen schools?

The state has deferred to counties throughout the COVID-19 crisis and counties have deferred decisions to the school district level. The county decision to allow schools to reopen does not mean it is safe for every school to do so. Rather, the county is trying to provide districts with the greatest possible room to operate, so those that believe they should reopen immediately are able to do so without county interference.

The 42 school districts within San Diego County serve vastly different communities. As the largest, San Diego Unified has the most diverse population and covers the most territory. More than 40 percent of our student population do not attend their local school and many parents and employees travel long distances each day. Our classrooms have many different configurations and methods of ventilation. These are precisely the kinds of local factors that districts are required to examine when making decisions on reopening.

Because more is being learned about the virus constantly, we believe our decisions should be made based on the best possible science. Therefore, we asked the University of California at San Diego to convene a panel of experts to help identify those factors that were right for our unique district to use when considering the conditions for reopening. You may read a copy of their report on our [website](#).

Throughout the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, local decisions have often proven to be best for the protection for local communities. San Diego Unified, for example, chose to close on March 13, while many in other parts of the state waited another week. Similarly, we announced plans to reopen online only, while much of the state waited a week to reach the same conclusion. Throughout, we have tried to act in the best interests of our students, parents and the community we serve. Knowledge of the virus and how it spreads is constantly evolving. It is likely that decisions we make on currently known facts may eventually change. For example, it was not clear at the start of this crisis how important masks are to stop its spread. Now, masks are considered critical as one of the first lines of defense.

How is Distance Learning different from spring?

The district spent the summer collaborating with educators and district staff to improve online learning for the 2020-2021 school year. The new online learning model will provide a rigorous and challenging curriculum that includes daily, real-time communication between every student and his or her teacher. We want students to continue to grow academically while staying connected to their school communities and preparing for a smooth return to the classroom once it is safe to reopen.

What happens on Aug. 31?

The first week of school will include our student and family orientation to online learning. This week is designed to invite and ignite learning for the new year. Formal graded assignments with standards-based instruction begins on Aug. 31.

Students and families will learn about the improved online learning tools. Educators will engage virtually with students and families. Students will participate in daily teacher interactions and participate in a menu of activities such as core content subjects, technology modules, as well as Visual And Performing Arts lessons.

Families will have an opportunity to review online modules that promote language and literacy development for their students. The pre-recorded modules can be viewed at any time in order to accommodate family schedules. Our goal is to help families navigate and learn about communication tools, strategies, and support as we launch the 2020-2021 school year of online learning.

What will students be expected to do?

All students who are able to access online learning are expected to participate. Students should begin the day prepared to learn. Online learning will consist of a combination of daily live teacher interactions, small group instruction, and self-paced lessons.

What type of work will my student have?

Expected workload and type of work varies by grade level. Students should expect a blend of screen time and off-screen time learning. Below is an overview of the district's new online learning model:

- A six-hour school day with customized learning experiences for each K-12 student
- All students will have daily, live interaction with their teachers via video conferencing
- Custom learning experiences will be based on student needs and will include daily live, online instruction (up to three hours), independent learning (at least two hours), working with other students in small groups or participating in educator office hours (at least one hour)
- All elementary students will receive instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and the arts
- Students will receive grades to measure their progress

How many hours are reasonable for students to be engaging in online Zoom meetings?

Each student is different. Students will be working in unique situations and therefore, the amount of time online is going to vary. Families should speak with their teachers if they feel their student is getting too much -- or not enough -- online Zoom meeting time.

How will students access lessons?

Students will be receiving login information from their teacher. Access to lessons varies by grade level:

Grades TK-5 will access lessons in Seesaw or Google classroom

Grades 6-12 will access lessons in Google classroom or Canvas

Special Education students

Families with children receiving special education services will have equal access to opportunities and receive the same educational benefit available to every student at this time.

Students will receive live instruction from their general education classroom teacher, their education specialist and their related service providers in both whole-group and small-group. Educators will also offer office hours to connect with students and families for additional support. Accommodations and assistive technology will be provided online as outlined in a student's individualized education plan (IEP). Families can request a meeting with the IEP team to determine how IEP services will be delivered in online learning. For more information regarding Special Education services, please call (619) 725-7700 or visit <https://www.sandiegounified.org/special-education>.

How is the District supporting English Learners?

The Office of Language Acquisition (OLA), in collaboration with integrated teams, is involved in designing professional learning opportunities for educators and administrators. A high leverage session will be made available to support English Learners (EL), Dual Identified Students, as well as every child needing extra support. We will support educators to maximize student participation, differentiate the process, product, and learning environment through small-group instruction.

Our OLA team will be supporting school sites and educators through an integrated model: Helping teachers understand their English learners, analyzing student data, co-planning lessons, co-teaching, and Model Quality Learning Interactions and Quality Teaching Practices, as well as integrating Universal Design for Learning Guidelines. The team will also provide support by implementing strategies for the EL Toolkit of Strategies.

We will implement professional development and classroom support through a job-embedded coaching model.

- The OLA team will host office hours for instruction and compliance
- OLA will host online ELAC/DELAC meetings to engage our families and seek input
- Ongoing district and site training will support integrated and designated English Language Development

For Updated Information please visit:

- Website: <https://www.sandiegounified.org/office-language-acquisition-ola>
- Email: ola@sandi.net

What is teacher availability outside lesson time?

Families should expect to be contacted by their teacher the first week of school.

Educators may offer online office hours and/or digital feedback for students and families who may have questions regarding assignments, assessments and progress. Students who feel they need one-on-one dialogue with their teacher may request a phone call, email, virtual online or video conference with their teacher.

Is my school counselor available?

Yes, school counselors will be offering direct student and family services. Counselors will be checking in with students and providing support to students in their academic progress and social-emotional health. Students and families may be offered individual, group interventions or a combination of both.

How will attendance be taken?

Student attendance will be taken daily in PowerSchool and will be based on both synchronous and asynchronous participation. If your student is absent, please communicate with your student's teacher.

How will students be tested and assessed?

Students will be tested and assessed through formative assessments which may include project-based learning and other student-produced work with feedback from the teacher.

How will students be graded?

Students will be graded through formative assessments, including the work a student is producing, with feedback from the teacher. The do-no-harm policy was only in place during distance learning in the spring. We will be moving back to a standards-based grading policy for the 2020-2021 school year.

San Diego Unified is currently revising the grading policy to focus on standards-based grading and the removal of non-academic factors from academic grades.

The new grading policy will also address the need for revision and reassessment in order to allow students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of standards throughout the grading term. The revised grading policy will be presented for approval to the Board of Education in September.

Why are high school schedules not able to have all six classes meet each day?

During online learning in the spring, students and parents expressed that having six online courses at the same time was difficult to manage. A three-class per grading term model more closely mirrors a college course load and allows students to focus more intensely on fewer courses.

Elementary class schedules remain the same. For questions related to changes to class schedules, please contact your school of enrollment.

Will students be able to earn the same amount of credits?

Yes. There will be no reduction in the number of courses offered. Students will focus on a smaller number of courses per grading term based on a quarter system that will issue credits for each course at the end of that quarter.

For middle school students, credits for year-long courses will be issued at the end of the second quarter of course completion.

When will my student take school photos?

School photos will be postponed until it is safe to return to onsite instruction.

Senior portrait appointments may still take place if the photo company has a current contract with the district and is adhering to current health and safety guidelines.

Are my college courses still available online?

Most community college courses moved to an online format starting Aug. 17. Students need to access the SDCCD [Canvas Login Page](#) and will need to use their 10-digit College Student Identification (CSID) number, and password, to access their coursework. Courses will remain online for the rest of the school year.

Will students have access to elective programs, VAPA, CTE, AP, IB, and dual enrollment community college courses?

Elective and dual enrollment college courses will still be included as part of the regular course offerings.

Advanced studies, VAPA, and CTE resource teachers have been working over the summer to ensure there are resources and enrichment opportunities for all specialized programs that both site teachers and students can access throughout the school year.

What do you have for the Arts?

San Diego Unified believes a foundation in the arts is essential for every student. Please review this [online curriculum created by our Visual and Performing Arts professionals](#).

Will we still have state testing?

The California Department of Education is still in discussion on this item. We will provide updates when they become available.

What if I don't have a computer?

We will continue to provide personal laptops and Wi-Fi service to families that need them. Your school of enrollment will be able to distribute devices once they have returned from summer break and will provide instructions so you may plan for a pick-up.

What do I have to bring to get a computer?

Please bring your photo ID and show proof of identity for your child by providing your: 1) Child's school ID card **OR** 2) student ID number **OR** 3) child's date of birth and address. Write your child's name, ID number, or date of birth and address in large print on a sheet of paper that can be easily read by staff members from a distance of at least six feet. Carry this with you or place on the dash of your car and be prepared to show it to staff. Students in middle or high school may pick up their laptop device without a parent or guardian present.

What if I am having issues with the computer I was given or need tech support?

If you already picked up a Chromebook and need technical support, please call the Online Learning Technical Support line at (619) 732-1400. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. - 1p.m. Saturdays (Sept. 1 – Oct. 1). (source: Back to school guide, page 27)

What if I don't have internet?

The district has partnered with internet service providers who are supplying free or discounted full-service internet offers to qualifying families. The Cox Connect2Compete program is one option. Additionally, mobile hotspots have been made available. For more information, or if you need assistance, please call the SDUSD Family Support Line at 619-260-2460. Dedicated agents are standing by ready to assist. Bilingual-Spanish assistance is available. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday – Friday & 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on select Saturdays (Aug. 29, Sept. 5 and Sept. 12).

Will my student be safe online using Zoom?

Zoom is one tool being used to facilitate collaboration and online learning between our educators and students. We have outlined [appropriate uses for Zoom](#) on our district website, and provided educators with significant amounts of professional development on best practices for Zoom use in education. Zoom provides clear [guidance for educators](#) to maintain control over their students' online experience. San Diego Unified has shared those and [other useful Zoom sites](#) with educators. We have provided additional guidance to teachers on best practices for Zoom use, including locking meetings, preventing screen sharing, disabling private chat, disabling video and muting participants. San Diego Unified's [Zoom page](#) includes links [to our Zoom best practices](#). Zoom uses industry-standard security technologies, procedures, and organizational measures designed to help protect personal information from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure. Zoom's K-12 Schools & Districts Privacy Policy is designed to reflect our compliance with the requirements of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA"), the California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA"), the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), and other applicable law. Zoom does not share student personal information with third parties or as required by law, except at the direction and on behalf of school districts. Families are encouraged to read the Zoom [privacy policy](#). If parents do not want their

students participating in Zoom conferences, they have a right to opt out of participation and their educators will find other ways to communicate with them.

Will my student be safe online?

San Diego Unified has implemented a new cloud based-web filtering software for students called iboss. It allows the district to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and extends web filtering for student devices regardless of the location they are learning in. With the iboss cloud, security follows the student, and ensures that the same level of protection and compliance is applied to a student regardless of whether they are on campus or at home. All district distributed Chromebooks will have the web filtering extension installed on it, no action will be required from the students or school staff.

I need help finding food

Students cannot learn without fuel, which is why we have set up food distribution sites across the district. On Monday, August 31, the district opened 82 school locations for students to pick-up their breakfast and lunch. Students and parents/guardians can drive-thru or walk-up to their designated meal pick-up site to receive their breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Parents can go to their designated meal site to pick up meals. Designated meal sites may be your enrollment school. The list of designated meal sites was emailed to parents on Sunday, Aug. 23. Parents may also contact their principal to confirm their designated meal site.

When picking up meals, parents may bring a form of identification for their children. It can be the child's school ID, or, the ID can be written down on a piece of paper, along with the student's name and school. The first time a meal is picked up, parents will be given a school validation card. Parents can use the school validation card for future meal pick up.

We have now served over 4 million meals since March 16 and we know that so many kids and their families are in need.

In addition to our own food services, we are actively working with [Feeding San Diego](#) and the [San Diego Food Bank](#) for assistance on food distribution. Both have excellent options available in most neighborhoods.

How about my pets?

San Diego Humane Society is supporting families and their pets who need extra help during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please visit the Human Society website at <https://www.sdhumane.org/programs/support-services/pantry-service.html>

How can parents help their students thrive during this time?

The following are tips and strategies you can continue to cultivate at home while continuing school via online learning:

- a) Stay healthy: Continue to follow all public health guidelines to protect you and others from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b) Monitor district communication for up-to-date information.
- c) Communicate with school staff regarding technology needs. The district has set up a technology helpline to assist students and families. The helpline is available by calling 619-732 -1400 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- d) Continue to enhance your wellness and the well-being of your family. For more information please visit, [LiveWell@Home San Diego](#).
- e) Stay involved in your child's learning. Check out [these online tips](#) for parents.
- f) Give yourself permission to have students work independently when you need time for your own priorities.
- g) Try to make time to play together, read stories together and document your family's experience of this time together in a journal.
- h) Be gentle with yourself and your family. This can be an unsettling time for everyone. San Diego Unified has mental [health and wellness information online](#).

Stay connected by visiting our [Family Online Learning Menu](#) with important information on Technology, Health & Safety, Social Emotional Lessons &

Wellness. We have also [created this presentation](#) including helpful resources to enhance your family's Wellness, Mindfulness, Physical & Mental Health.

Remember: We are in this together and we are here to support you.

How else can we stay healthy?

Stay active! Our Physical education teachers have [set up a site for continued learning](#). The [Athletics Department has also shared information](#).

I need help (mental health)

Mental health and wellness is critical for parents and students during this challenging time. The district has created a [web site with available resources](#). There's also a self-care tool for youth [Gritx.org](#) and a mindfulness platform specifically designed for mental health, [Inner Explorer](#), that includes short, 5-10 minute activities for our students and families.

How is the district supporting working families with childcare options on campus?

The schools have remained closed for student and staff safety. As the district begins planning for schools to safely reopen and explore childcare services, families may contact the YMCA Childcare Resource Services at 1-800-481-2151.

Will the district be partnering with tutoring services to help parents?

The Family Engagement Department has resources available to help parents:

- Families can use [High Impact Home Strategies](#) to support their child's learning at home.
- *Online training modules* for students and families. These pre-recorded modules will be available for families to access at their convenience during the "Welcome Week" of school.
- The Family Engagement Department, will continue to offer *weekly family workshops*, designed for parents and students participation, to enhance student learning and family engagement.

To learn more, contact the [Family Engagement Department](#) at 619.293.4431.

How do I enroll my student in San Diego Unified?

All students are guaranteed enrollment in their neighborhood school. For details on the enrollment process, please visit our Office of [Neighborhood Schools and Enrollment Options](#) online. There, you will find remote enrollment procedures for new-to-district families for the current year, along with other useful information.

Can I apply to attend a school outside of my neighborhood?

Yes, parents are still welcome to apply for the Choice program for 2020-2021. If space is still available, your student may be offered enrollment. For more, please visit our Office of [Neighborhood Schools and Enrollment Options](#) online.

When does Preschool enrollment begin?

Applications for part day preschool started for select sites on June 1, 2020 for priority enrollment. The open application period started on June 24, 2020 and will continue throughout the school year until March 31, 2021, as space allows.

Families can visit our website at [Early Learning Programs](#) for additional details. Families can contact an enrollment specialist at 619.260.2450 or via email at earlychildhood@sandi.net.

Do you offer schooling for incoming military families?

Yes, our Neighborhood Schools and Enrollment Options office is currently serving military families remotely for all enrollment needs. Please [visit their home page](#) for more information.

Did the District apply for a waiver for elementary schools?

No, a waiver is no longer required for schools to reopen in San Diego.

When will you physically reopen schools?

The school year will open with online instruction Aug. 31, as campuses remain closed due to the spread of COVID-19 across the community. Meanwhile, we

continue to plan for the physical reopening of schools once it is safe to do so, with guidance from experts in science and public health.

What will school look like in the future?

No one knows for sure. To ensure the continuity of learning, San Diego Unified is prepared to offer two Learning Options: 1) Online Learning and 2) On-site learning (when it is safe to do so based on health and safety guidelines). On-site learning will include in-person instruction, engagement with teachers and peers, access to supports and enrichment opportunities, and innovative technology. (source: Back to school guide, page 16).

The district has experts, including district physician, Dr. Howard Taras, who are helping us prepare to safely reopen. To read the District's Report of Recommended Standards that the district is adopting, and the input from Dr. Taras and a panel of UCSD Experts, [click here](#).