



March 9, 2021

Dear YPI Charter Schools Staff and Community:

When YPICS closed our campuses and moved to online learning a year ago, we promised that we would follow the science, and give our school communities one month's notice before reopening so that staff and families would have time to adjust. As a result, we are announcing that **YPICS campuses will reopen on Friday, April 16, 2021**. We will open with one grade per school in a hybrid model. We understand that this will be a scary idea for some of our team, so we want to be clear about our decision to reopen our campuses for in-person instruction. We do not take this decision lightly.

Logic for Reopening

First, **science says that it is safe for staff and students to return**. LA County is moving from the Purple Tier to the Red Tier. (Epidemiologists are anticipating that LA County will move into the Red Tier next week or by the end of March at the latest.) Our schools have the Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing practices required by the State and LA County Health Departments. Our schools will provide mandatory weekly COVID-19 testing and contact tracing of staff and students. Our staff has also been offered the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Second, we have scholars that are not doing well social-emotionally, nor academically, in a pure distance learning environment. According to survey data, **44.7% of YPICS parents expressed the desire to send their children back onto campus as soon as possible**. Parents cited various reasons including not being able to support their child during the school day, concerns regarding their child's social emotional well being, and concern for their child's lack of educational engagement in the distance learning environment. We can provide more support for our most struggling scholars in small cohorts on campus.

Finally, we have decided to reopen on a Friday two weeks after spring break, so we can monitor LA County and community case numbers after the holiday. Opening on Friday, also allows us to test our opening and make adjustments over the weekend if necessary.

SB 86 States

According to the new California state law, **SB86, schools must offer in-person instruction** to "all pupils who are individuals with exceptional needs, and to all prioritized pupil groups" to its maximum practical capacity in all Tiers of Reopening. It also reads, "Red, Orange, and Yellow Tiers must offer optional in-person instruction for TK-5 and 6 in elementary school, and one full grade level for middle and high schools."

How YPICS Will Adjust to Meet the Law

Per the law, YPICS will open with one grade level per school in a hybrid model.

Due to capacity restrictions for school sites, school-based instruction will take the form of **simultaneous learning**. This means that teachers will continue to plan Distance Learning lessons, which scholars will engage with both on and off campus at the same time.

The following supports and considerations will be in place in order to best ensure a smooth transition to simultaneous learning:

- Ensuring all staff have **appropriate technology** to successfully implement simultaneous learning;



- **Where possible**, ensuring that there are **two adults in each classroom** to support with managing technology and interactions.
- YPICS will provide training and support in order to guide teachers in:
 - recalibrating **norms and expectations** for simultaneous learning (including but not limited to safety protocols)
 - **balancing participation**, which essentially involves making sure to call upon and engage all students in a balanced manner whether they are online or in the classroom

Next steps:

1. For Staff
 - a. All staff complete anonymous **Questions, Comments, or Concerns Regarding Re-Opening Form.** (<https://tinyurl.com/ypicsreopening>)
 - i. We are collecting any questions, comments, or concerns regarding reopening from all staff, using the anonymous form.
 - ii. If staff have documented medical conditions that prevent you from being on campus, please inform your Executive Administrator and Ms. Zubia.
 - b. The Executive Team will host school level town hall meetings for all school staff in order to address questions and concerns addressed in the [form](#).
2. For Parents and Students
 - a. The Executive Team will host town hall meetings for parents and students
 - b. Schools will gather the preference of each parent/family. Families that do not feel comfortable with on-campus learning will be given the opportunity to continue with distance learning for the remainder of the semester.
3. Summer Program
 - a. **We heard you! We will not extend the school-year!**
 - b. School sites will begin making preparations for a robust voluntary summer program for students in collaboration with our Think Together after school team.

This year has not been easy and this transition will not be easy. We can only do our best to support each other, our scholars, and the communities we serve. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvette King-Berg".

Yvette King-Berg, YPICS Executive Director

Cc:

Ruben Duenas, YPICS Chief Operations Officer
Kevin Myers, Executive Administrator BCCS
Larry Simonsen, Executive Administrator BCCHS
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