



RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Educating for the Future Together"

2390 Bass Lake Road • Rescue, CA 95672

(530) 677-4461 • FAX (530) 677-0719

www.rescueusd.org

February 11, 2021

Dear RUSD Staff and Families,

As you may be aware, late yesterday California Department of Public Health released their process for a Safety Review Request. We had been under the impression that we would be able to work with our local public health officials on the process to demonstrate that we could indeed successfully navigate a full reopening of our schools despite the four-foot requirement put forth in the January 14, 2021 guidelines. However, that is not the case. This CDPH process stipulates that a district first must submit a Letter of Intent with the State, and within that letter must be able to indicate one of two specific reasons for the request. Upon receipt of the Letter of Intent, the State Department Team would then send the district the Safety Review Request form process.

Upon reading through the process it is clear that the way it is currently written it does not pertain to our situation. It will not allow for us to fully reopen at this time. There are two specific reasons CDPH is allowing districts to apply for a Safety Review Request. The first reason is to support districts who, because of the January 14th document, would otherwise have to return to full distance learning. Our district, under the January 14th requirements, can still operate in the hybrid model, and therefore Reason 1 would not apply. The second reason is if a district was in the process of bringing back students to in-person instruction, but had never offered all students the option to return for in-person instruction for at least part of the week. Our district has offered students from every grade the ability to receive at least some in-person instruction since August, and therefore reason 2 does not apply either. We are currently seeking counsel and clarification from the State regarding this unfortunate fact.

As we continue working through this process we want you to know we are seeking every possible solution. We are thinking outside the box and trying to determine how we could get more of our children at school full time under the current requirements put forth by the January 14, 2021 document until this is resolved. As always, we will keep you informed. We know we need our children in school full time. That is our intent. We appreciate our staff and families. We are grateful that in RUSD we collaborate successfully with our union groups and the Board of Trustees to make decisions that are beneficial for all. Our teachers and staff join our families in the desire to best meet student needs. We will continue providing our students the very best educational experience possible.

Most sincerely,

Cheryl Olson



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