



January 28, 2021

Dr. Rob Oldham, Placer County Department of Public Health
Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Superintendent, Placer County Office of Education

Dear Dr. Oldham and Superintendent Garbolino-Mojica,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the educators and the students we serve in Placer County’s TK-12 public schools regarding the ongoing policies, guidance, and conditions under which schools are, or will, reopen for in-person instruction during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We appreciate the dramatic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has on the daily lives and health of everyone in our county. As educators, we too want to be back with our students doing the work that we love, but we cannot ignore prevention science and school safety standards. **Our position from the beginning has been simple: California cannot physically open schools for in-person instruction until it is safe to do so.**

The NEW California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 guidance, entitled *COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-21 School Year*, released on January 14th, 2021, updates and supersedes past CDPH guidance for schools and applies to all districts and school sites throughout Placer County, including those that already opened for in-person instruction.

Governmental and non-governmental entities at all levels have issued guidance and directives relating to the safe reopening of schools for in-person instruction. The new CDPH guidance states, “Schools may comply with guidance from other federal, state, local, and non-governmental sources, to the extent those guidelines are not weaker than or inconsistent with state and local public health directives.”

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The new guidance requires maximum space between all seating of at least six feet apart, except where six feet of distance is not possible **after a good-faith effort has been made**. The guidance requires that the superintendent be prepared to demonstrate that good-faith effort, including effort to consider all outdoor/indoor space options and hybrid learning models. The guidance is clear, requiring masks to be worn, and under no circumstances should distancing between student seats be less than four feet.

As educators in Placer County, we are also very concerned about schools remaining open or expanding in-person instruction when the positive case rate for COVID-19 in our county exceeds the CDPH guidance of 25 per 100,000.

In your leadership positions leading Placer County's public health and public education systems, we need you to ensure that all steps have been taken to comply with the new mandatory CDPH guidance, including schools that have prematurely reopened and before any other schools are allowed to reopen or expand in-person instruction.

By this letter, we are requesting a meeting with each of you to further discuss the immediate steps that you will take to keep our schools, students, and community safe during this unprecedented global pandemic.

A representative on behalf of the signatories to this letter will be contacting you shortly to schedule a meeting.

Respectfully yours,



Juli Longtin, President
American Bear Education Association
(Placer Hills Union School District)



Lysa Sassman, President
Auburn Union Teachers Association
(Auburn Union School District)



Mike Sabins, President
Associated Teachers of Placer
(Placer Union High School District)



Craig McAtee, President
Association of Colfax Educators
(Colfax Elementary School District)

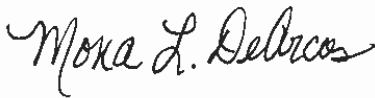
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