August 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

We are pleased to announce that the current trend in case infection data indicates that Stanislaus County is in a position to plan for in-school instruction. The Stanislaus County Office of Education, local school districts, and local public health communicate regularly to navigate the updated state frameworks and guidelines that support educational opportunities for the nearly 111,000 students in the county.

On August 20, Public Health Officer Dr. Julie Vaishampayan shared projections that the 14-day COVID-19 case infection rate could drop below 200 cases/100,000 people within the next week. To ensure consistency of data monitoring and reporting, schools are relying on both the Stanislaus County Department of Public Health and the California Department of Public Health as accurate sources of information. A link to the State-County Data Monitoring system is located on the SCOE website at www.stancoe.org/coronavirus. Once the rate drops below the 200/100,000 rates, school waiver applications could be approved and submitted to the California Public Health Department.

The process schools will follow when requesting a waiver includes input from parents, bargaining units, and community organizations. Once the waiver plan is submitted to Stanislaus County Public Health, it could take up to 30 days before a school would open for in-person instruction. School waiver plans will be posted on the SCOE Website.

In an abundance of caution, Schools may opt to wait until Stanislaus County is off the state monitoring list and below the 100/100,000 14-day case rate, in which case a waiver would not be necessary to reopen TK-6th grade elementary schools.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families are of utmost importance. We recognize the significant impact school closures have on our entire community. SCOE and all 25 school districts will continue to work actively to provide robust distance learning options until schools in Stanislaus County reopen for in-classroom instruction.

Sincerely,

Scott Kuykendall
Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools