



October 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's official! Kern County moved from the Purple to the less-restrictive Red Tier today! Following plans set in place at our local school board meetings, Arvin Union School District will state our intent to reopen after a mandatory two-week waiting period. This will be a very limited reopening for already identified students most vulnerable to learning loss.

We are carefully considering the safety of students and staff and will announce specific plans to increase these numbers over time. In the meantime, the district will continue with delivery of lessons largely through Distance Learning formats.

Following separate guidance, the district has already been conducting formal assessments for English Learners and Students with Special Needs on a one-on-one basis. Beginning tomorrow (October 14th), prioritized Students with Special Needs will begin school in small groups called cohorts. Cohorts will attend school for a limited time and number of days each week. Additionally, invitations will go to students who have not been able to access streaming internet connectivity due to lack of service in particular areas in town.

The Arvin Union School District will continue to return students to school site instruction incrementally prioritizing students who are most vulnerable to learning loss. This includes students with disabilities, English learners, foster and homeless students, students unable to access internet connectivity, and students in primary grades.

As COVID rates in our zip code decrease and/or the county moves to a lower tier, small cohorts of targeted support will be expanded to a hybrid learning model. The initial hybrid model will include groups of students who attend school on campus part of the week and continue distance learning on the other days of the week. As there will be a need for physical distancing, district classrooms will be occupied by limited numbers of students. As they return, all staff and students will be required to wear masks. Distance Learning accommodations will be made for families who are not comfortable sending their students back to the physical campus.

The district has developed a Mid-year Reopening Plan which includes enhanced cleaning/disinfection, stable cohorts, physical distancing, health screenings, personal protective equipment (PPE), transportation, healthy hygiene practices, contact tracing, COVID-19 testing for staff, and more. A timeline for return to campuses will be rolled out in stages throughout the next weeks and months as conditions allow.

Thank you for your support of your students and their teachers through the Distance Learning Environment. We look forward to the next steps given this "Red Tier" news today! If you have any questions, please contact your school site or the district office at 661-854-6500.

Sincerely,


Georgia Rhett, Superintendent