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# Los Angeles County Office of Education

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Serving Students ■ Supporting Communities ■ Leading Educators

March 15, 2021

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Los Angeles County  
Board of Education

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well. It is hard to believe that March 13 marked one year since I recommended the closure of all Los Angeles County schools to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in our community. That was also the date when schools operated by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) transitioned to distance learning.

Little did we know then that the pandemic would last this long. Fortunately, over the past month, we have seen a remarkable decrease in COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County. This week, the county met the requirements to move from the most restrictive Purple Tier to the less restrictive Red Tier. In the Red Tier, all K-12 schools in Los Angeles County — including those run by LACOE — are eligible to return to in-person instruction.

I am delighted to share that plans are underway for students in LACOE's schools to return to in-person instruction and **we look forward to welcoming them back beginning on Monday, April 5, 2021.** Your school principal will be sharing more detailed information with you in the coming days.

Please be assured that the health and safety of LACOE students and staff are always my top priority. Since the beginning of the pandemic, LACOE has taken many steps to prepare all our facilities for a safe return of students and staff. These steps include:

- Upgrading ventilation systems
- Requiring face coverings in LACOE facilities
- Implementing social distancing guidelines
- Administering daily symptom surveys
- Posting important notices and reminders
- Marking directional foot traffic flow
- Coordinating vaccinations for staff
- Complying with all state and county recommendations and mandates

In addition, all LACOE staff, including those at our school sites, will be required to participate in COVID-19 prevention training. With these and other safety protocols in place, we will ensure that our students and staff are provided a safe and healthy learning environment.

This has been an incredibly difficult year and I want to thank everyone for your support, patience and cooperation. I would also like to acknowledge our school administrators, teachers, paraeducators and other staff who have remained committed to providing high-quality instruction in the face of unprecedented challenges.

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We are well aware of how COVID-19 has impacted our young people both emotionally and academically. Know that LACOE is dedicated to helping your child make a successful transition back to in-person instruction with supports to promote learning recovery and wellbeing.

I look forward to keeping you updated and to welcoming our students back to school soon.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Duardo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

DD/EG:mm