

Updated Learning Model Parent FAQ Document

How will the Digital Learning Academy look different than the Distance Learning Model this year?

Based on Assembly Bill 77 that was just passed, all school districts in California will be bound by the following regulations to receive full funding for digital learning models:

For the 2020–21 school year, the minimum school day for a local educational agency is as follows:

- (a) 180 instructional minutes in kindergarten.
- (b) 230 instructional minutes in grades 1 to 3, inclusive.
- (c) 240 instructional minutes in grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

For distance learning, instructional time shall be based on the “time value” of assignments as determined and certified by a teacher.

Distance Learning shall include the following:

1. Access to a device and connectivity for every child enrolled in this program.
2. Content aligned to grade level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person teaching.
3. Academic and other supports designed to support students who are not performing at grade level or need other supports, such as English Learners, foster youth, homelessness, and mental health needs.
4. Special education, related services, and any other services required by a student’s IEP
5. Designated and integrated instruction in English language development
6. Daily live instruction with teacher and students for purposes on instruction, progress monitoring, and maintaining school connectedness.
7. Provide meal services to students in enrolled in the program
8. Daily and weekly documentation of student participation
9. Regular communication on academic progress

If we select the hybrid model, would our child be mandated to wear a mask? **Yes, current public health orders require all students and staff to wear a mask.**

My child will be starting Kinder. Is it a guarantee that he/she will be attending the home school? **Yes, all families choosing the blended learning model will be able to attend their home school.**

What will the hours be for AM and PM classes? **This depends on the start time at your school. It is the first 2.5 hours of the day for AM and the last 2.5 hours of the day for PM.**

My child is worried about returning to school until there is a vaccine. I want to make sure that if I choose entirely online and a vaccine is developed and schools re-open, we can return to the classroom or is the online choice for all year regardless of what changes.

As new information becomes available and orders change, the District would work to make those same transitions as permitted. This is a fluid situation and we will adapt to any state guidelines that require changes.

Will kids have an option to do a face shield INSTEAD of a mask? **At this time the state health order language specifically mentions masks.**

What are the safety measures you will be implementing with the hybrid option? **We will be following all public health guidelines that will be in place when school starts. These will include temperature check-ins, social distancing, masks, hand sanitation stations around the school, regular cleanings of restrooms, and disinfecting classrooms between groups of students.**

Will the children be wearing masks at all times? **Yes, that is required in the current state health order**

What is the projected classroom size? **11-13 students in TK-3 and 14-16 students in grades 4-6**

How frequently will the classrooms be sanitized? **Twice daily**

If I choose the online option, will I have the availability to move my child to a classroom setting if Covid stats change or it doesn't work for her? Or, will we be stuck in our decision for the school year? **Movement could occur on a space available basis**

What happens if we are allowed to reopen and Covid numbers are low (or we have a vaccine) and I have picked distance learning? Will my child be able to come back to in person school? **Yes, movement will be allowed on an availability basis. If things fully open up, we will work to make larger transitions available.**

If I choose distance learning will my child be with other children from his home school? **We will be looking to cluster students together from the same schools to help them feel comfortable in this environment.**

Will teachers lose jobs? **No, teachers will be teaching in one of the two models.**

What are the benefits of hybrid if children cannot be close, collaborate, play, or share? **For most students it will be the fact that they can socialize, even if it is from a distance and that they get to have their math and ELA instruction in a traditional model.**

If circumstances change and a parent who elected to distance learn has to return the student to be back in school, are they able to make the transition? **Yes, but if space is not available at that school, you could be deferred to another school site.**

Will any efforts be made to maintain engagement between Distance Learning Academies students and Hybrid students? **The schools sites where we assign the Distance Learning Academies will be connected to the school functions.**

Will Distance Learning Academies students in 6th grade be able to graduate with their hybrid peers, assuming ceremonies take place? **Yes**

What about other extra-curricular activities, especially if there's a positive change? **We would work to support those opportunities.**

Would the grade level syllabus be standardized for all classes? Or does it vary depending on Digital vs. Hybrid program and from teacher-to-teacher? **The standards students are expected to reach mastery on will be consistent regardless of the model chosen. The process students learn these standards may vary based on the model and the teacher.**

What is the expectation (time wise) on how involved a parent needs to be for the Digital Model and online portion of learning? **Please see the “Digital Learning Parent Best Practices” document on the Task Force webpage as a guide for what parents should expect in terms of supporting their child in the Digital Learning Academy.**

Is there a document that parents will be required to sign or a way to encourage them to inform the school and self isolate if their family has been exposed or show flu like symptoms? **We will educate our families on proper protocols for notification of any COVID-related issues.**

Is the school prepared to switch a student immediately to at-home Digital learning if someone in their household is exposed or showing flu or Covid-19 like symptoms? **We will be developing protocols and systems to meet the needs of students when this occurs.**

Can classes be held outside, or is there a way to increase air flow such as keeping windows and doors open to help lower the chances of transmission? **For safety reasons and often warm temperatures, it is best to keep students in their classrooms. Most classroom’s thermostats are regulated by having the doors closed otherwise the air conditioning will not run and classes would get too hot. Additionally, based on guidance from the County Sheriff, it has been best practice to have exterior classroom doors locked to keep students safe.**

We are currently considering the Hybrid Model. However, with the rising COVID numbers, will we be able to change our choice to Digital only as we get closer to August? **Movement will be based on a space availability basis, unless guidance from the Public Health Department requires to suddenly move all classrooms to on-line.**