

From: **CDPH K12 Safety Review** <K12SafetyReview@cdph.ca.gov>
Date: Sun, Mar 7, 2021 at 4:40 PM
Subject: Safety Review Request Form Status Update
To: Haley, Robert <robert.haley@sduhsd.net>

Dear Robert,

Thank you for submitting your materials for a Safety Review Request. The state's overarching goal is to support continued safe school re-openings, ensuring that schools are safe learning and working environments. The goal of the safety review process for Scenario 2 (Phased-in Re-openings) is to assess whether a school has and can implement safe phased-in re-openings.

The State Safe Schools Team—an interagency partnership with experts in public health, occupational health, and K-12 education—reviews each application in detail to make this assessment. There are several possible determinations in response to applications regarding phased-in re-openings: Approved as Open; Approved with Conditions; Ineligible.

Your application has been Approved with Conditions. The Conditions for your application are that the phased-in re-opening is only approved for bringing back additional students for in-person instruction under the [Cohort Guidance](#). We strongly encourage the schools to use the [Cohort Guidance](#) to bring back for in-person instruction students who are struggling with distance learning, especially those experiencing mental and emotional health concerns. The Cohort guidance allows schools to provide in-person services to students in stable groups of up to 15 students per group.

Schools were deemed “Approved with Conditions” or “Ineligible” if they were unable to provide a record of safety demonstrating that they could reopen at greater scale prior to COVID-19 transmission rates declining to a safer level. Specifically, schools were deemed “Approved with Conditions” or “Ineligible” for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Insufficient track record of experience implementing safety protocols and routines, as indicated by small percentages of students being on campus;
2. Students have been present intermittently on campus, but for only pilot classes, not ongoing instruction;
3. Students have been present intermittently on campus but not for indoor in-instruction (e.g., students return for outdoor PE, athletic conditioning, extracurriculars);
4. Contact tracing data indicating higher-than-expected numbers of in-school transmissions or outbreaks and/or inadequate remediation actions in response to in-school transmissions or outbreaks; and/or
5. Inadequate plan for ongoing safety monitoring using an asymptomatic testing regimen.

As you continue bringing students back to campus, we encourage you to work with the State Safe Schools Team to ensure schools can reopen as quickly and safely as possible. The Team can provide support across a broad range of topics and implementation efforts, including the use of the Cohort Guidance, contact tracing and outbreak mitigation, asymptomatic testing, and more. Efforts to bring students back now in a safe manner under the Cohort Guidance will support a successful reopening when the county is in the Red Tier, which will likely occur in the next few weeks if current trends continue. You can access those supports by replying to this email or submitting a request at <https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/>.

This decision is made in partnership with the local health officers. We asked local health officers to approve only the submission of the application, in consideration of the local context, case rates, and other relevant factors. Accordingly, local health officer approval was necessary but not sufficient for full approval, as they were not asked to review whether the application meets the CDPH criteria for approval regarding opening status.

Thank you for all your efforts to provide safe education and supports to students and families during the COVID19 pandemic.

From,

