

OUSD Parents for Transparency and Safe Reopening Statement on OEA Ratification of the Tentative Agreement

OAKLAND, CA – March 20, 2021 –OUSD Parents for Transparency and Safe Reopening (OUSDParents) issues the following statement on the news Oakland Education Association (OEA) members have ratified the Tentative Agreement:

“We are pleased to learn a majority of OEA members voted to return to their classrooms in the coming weeks, echoing the majority of Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) families who have voiced a desire to return to in-person instruction. While this is welcome progress after more than a year of distance learning, all OUSD students in grades TK-12 should have the opportunity to return to their classrooms this school year, not a portion of students. The CDC and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated distancing guidance announced yesterday makes it possible for a five day return for all families who choose.

In an email sent to OUSD families this evening, OUSD indicated that for fall ‘The model we use and the number of students we will be able to serve on campus at any one time will depend on the public health guidance.’ The public health guidance from the CDC and CDPH indicate we can have TK-12 open now and back five days. It is incredibly disconcerting for OUSD families that not only is there no indication the district will revisit this for spring but cannot even commit to five full days in the fall.

OUSD shared a sample elementary schedule with families this evening and in-person instruction would occur two afternoons per week, two and a half hours each day for a total of five hours of in-person instruction per week. Neighboring districts with hybrid schedules are offering students two times as much in class instruction and districts in Berkeley and Albany have recently moved to offer instruction five days a week. A school that is open for students five hours a week is not an open school, and we will continue to advocate for a full-time, five days a week return for all OUSD students this spring and in the fall.”

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OUSDParents

OUSDParents is a group of parents from across Oakland who are committed to public education and believe their children should have access to safe, in-person education. Learn more at www.OUSDParents.com

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