

Frequently Asked Questions
Re-Opening Our Schools
7.16.2020 Updated

When Does School Begin and Who Can Attend?

School begins Wednesday, August 19, 2020. All enrolled students, grades Pre-Kindergarten - 8, are welcome to attend in-person classes, every day.

If you have not registered your child for the 2020-21 school year, please visit the following website for online registration instructions: <http://www.santeesd.net/Page/13921>

How Are You Following Safety Guidelines for In-Classroom Instruction?

Our “Safe Schools Re-Opening Plan” can be found, as of July 17, on our main district webpage. This plan was developed using guidance provided from:

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
- California Department of Education (CDE), and
- San Diego County Office of Education

Please read our Safe Schools Re-Opening Plan for more information about student and staff safety, including facemask requirements on campus.

We are fortunate to have the funding to:

- Reduce class sizes by hiring teachers
- Purchase single-user desks to allow for spacing around each student and the teacher
- Provide individual student supplies and materials for classroom use

Is the District Offering a “Distance” Learning Program?

Yes. We will be staffing our Kindergarten - Grade 8 distance learning program for the 2020-21 school year based on parent interest. In order to secure your child’s spot in distance learning, please submit your interest using this Microsoft Form by July 31: [Distance Learning Enrollment](#). Based on distance teacher student caseload, enrollment submitted after this date may be approved or waitlisted.

We have changed our “home learning” wording to distance learning. This wording was causing confusion with our Alternative (Home) School option, which is currently full.

Students will be issued their iPad for instructional use in this distance learning program. Other home technologies may be used to communicate with the teacher and classmates.

Distance learning students who receive a “free or reduced lunch” through our child nutrition program will be able to receive a daily meal. More information on meal applications for free or reduced lunch will be sent to all enrolled families within the next couple weeks.

If I Enroll My Child in Distance Learning this Fall, Can My Child Re-Enter His/Her School During the Year or Another School?

Maybe. There are a couple of possibilities for a child to return to a campus in the 2020-21 school year and it will depend on your timing for the return:

- Ability to return right away, space available in your child's grade level in your school of choice
- Wait listed for the school of choice, until space is available and/or social distancing is no longer necessary in our schools
- Attend another school where space is available

Children in the distance learning program will be enrolled in the “District Distance Learning Program” and assigned to a certificated teacher. This teacher may or may not be from the child’s previous school.

How Will Distance Learning Differ This School Year than Our Instructional Program in March – June 2020?

Distance learning instructional services will be dependent on enrollment. As of July 16, we have approximately 250 students who will be enrolling in distance learning. Students should expect to receive daily instruction with a certificated teacher and access to standards-aligned, District adopted curriculum and instructional materials.

Students and parents should expect a daily schedule that includes:

- Instruction from a certificated teacher
- Attendance checks
- Independent work completion

Students and parents should expect weekly:

- Virtual collaboration with other students
- Work completion check-ins with the certificated teacher
- Assessment of learning

We will update our FAQs with more information on distance learning specifics once we have that program more fully developed in the next couple of weeks.

Can Children Who Require Special Education Services be Enrolled in Distance Learning?

Yes. When you speak with our enrollment specialist, please indicate that your child receives special education services so the specialist can work with the special education department on your child’s specific needs. Service delivery decisions will be determined between you and the special education team.

What is the Difference Between the Alternative (Home) School and the Distance Learning Program?

Both options for children and parents are delivered remotely, at home. Children are provided work to complete for the week and must provide evidence of work completion to the teacher. Both options include weekly and trimester assessments to monitor student progress.

	Teacher Role	Parent Role
Alternative (Home) School	Secondary Instructor	Primary Instructor
Distance Learning Program	Primary Instructor	Secondary Instructor

Why Are You Opening to In-Person Instruction When San Diego Unified Is Not?

We are very different from San Diego Unified in geographical size, how many students and staff we serve, and in our funding options. San Diego Unified serves an extremely large population in our County as shown in the map posted below.

In comparison, Santee serves a much smaller physical area with a population of approximately 58,000. According to the County Public Health documents, Santee's rate of positive cases is among the lowest in the County at .3%.

Districts more similar to Santee School District in student enrollment, Fallbrook and Lakeside Union, are operating a very similar re-opening plan: 100% in-person, 100% distance learning, or 100% home school. All three districts also have a very low rate of positive COVID cases as compared to the overall population census of each community.

