



Re: Quarter 1 Update

September 14, 2020

Dear Grimmway Academy Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family have remained safe and healthy throughout these past several months. As we all continue to move through these challenging and unpredictable times, please know that our focus on delivering a high-quality and joyfully rigorous educational experience continues to remain strong and resolute.

I hope that the school year has gotten off to as positive a start as possible for your child/children. I am cognizant of the challenges everyone has had to overcome these past several months, and appreciate the resilience of the entire Grimmway Academy community. As much as we would all like things to return to “normal” as soon as possible - it is important for to be clear-eyed about the fact that the 2020-2021 school year will possibly not see a return to the pre-COVID normal that we all enjoyed – and perhaps many, including myself – took for granted. That being said, there is a good chance that we will be able to move back to our A/B Hybrid Reopening Model before the end of the calendar year. While certainly not perfect, it will allow scholars to return to campus for at least a few days a week.

Here are a few important updates:

Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP)

[SB 98](#) established that the LCAP and annual update are not required for the 2020-2021 school year. Instead, we are required to complete a Learning Continuity Plan (LCP). The LCP memorializes the planning process already underway for the 2020–21 school year and includes descriptions of the following: addressing gaps in learning; conducting meaningful stakeholder engagement; maintaining transparency; addressing the needs of unduplicated pupils, students with unique needs, and students experiencing homelessness; providing access to necessary devices and connectivity for distance learning; providing resources and supports to address student and staff mental health and social emotional well-being; and continuing to provide school meals for students. The LCP is due on September 30, but before our Board can adopt the plan, we must present the draft in a public forum on September 22nd at 5:00 PM. The Zoom link to the meeting will be shared next week.

As we construct our draft LCP, your feedback and input is vital for us to identify areas that are effective so we can ensure that we continue with what is working – as well as areas that you feel are in need of improvement or growth, so we can adjust accordingly. **Please click [HERE](#) for a survey to provide your feedback.**

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We will share a copy of the draft, and post on our website by the end of this week in advance of the public hearing on September 22nd. Physical copies will also be available in advance of the meeting- details will be provided this week on how to request a hard copy.

Guidance for Small Cohorts/Groups of Children and Youth

On August 25, 2020, the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) issued Guidance](#) which authorizes targeted, small-group, in-person services in controlled, supervised, and indoor environments. Cohorts may include: Special Ed, English language learners, students at higher risk of learning loss or those not participating in distance learning, foster youth, and homeless youth.

- Cohorts consists of no more than 14 students and no more than 2 adults
- Cohorts and adults may not physically interact with other cohorts
- One-to-one specialized services can be provided to a student by an itinerant teacher that is not part of the student's cohort
- More information forthcoming on additional cohorts that will be added

Students having IEPs and those in need of ELPAC testing have already begun coming onto campus this week for targeted services/testing. Looking ahead to the next few weeks, we are working on the most effective models of heterogenous cohorts consisting of scholars identified in the above groups – as well as a staffing plan to address their learning needs in an effective manner. Site leadership are using relevant academic data to develop metrics consistent with the CDPH guidelines to invite scholars who meet the designated criteria back on campus in a limited manner.

While my sense is that many of you would like your child back on campus as soon as possible, we are not allowed to have students back on campus for general instruction - only specific, targeted groups of students most at-risk of learning loss during distance learning. School site leadership will begin reaching out directly to you within the next 10 days if your child meets the criteria to assess your willingness to allow them back on campus for academic support.

School Reopening Process

On a parallel path, we are in the process of preparing to submit a waiver to the Kern County Department of Public Health Services (KCDPHS) to expand the number of students we are allowed to have on campus in person. Our general intention is to only provide opportunities for those students most in need and/or families who are interested in opting in to allowing their child on campus for in-person learning.



However, if Kern County’s risk level drops from “Widespread” (more than 7 daily new cases per 100k), to “Substantial” (less than 7 daily new cases per 100k) for three weeks, then Grimmway Schools will shift to our A/B Hybrid Model (Click [HERE](#) for the Grimmway Schools Reopening Plan). Click [HERE](#) to track the Kern County COVID-19 Risk Levels.

While we believe that in-person learning is the most effective way for children to learn, we also are cognizant of our responsibility to ensure that our school community remains as safe and healthy as possible.

Child Supervision

Based on the recent CDPH Guidelines for small cohorts, Grimmway Schools is able to offer very limited supervision services for Grimmway Scholars whose parents or guardians are considered “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” as designated by the California State Government. Click [HERE](#) for a link to see which industries meet the criteria.

While in a perfect world we would be able to expand this offering to a broader section of our school community, however we have limited capacity for supervision given the CDPH guidelines on safe distancing, combined with staffing limits.

If your job is categorized as part of the “Essential Workforce” – and, you are in need of child supervision during the day - please click [HERE](#) to fill out the child supervision request form. If you have any specific questions, please contact Dr. Monica Jara-Guerra at mjaraguerra@grimmwayschools.org.

Thank you for your continued trust in us at Grimmway Schools.

With gratitude and optimism,

Casey Yeazel
Chief Executive Officer
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Guiding Documents

- (a) CDE Guidelines (Click [HERE](#));
- (b) CDPH Guidelines (Click [HERE](#)); and
- (c) Assembly Bill 77(AB-77) & Senate Bill 98 (SB98) (Click [HERE](#))
- (d) CDPH Guidance for Cohorts (Click [HERE](#))

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