



Re: Grimmway Roadmap to Reopening

October 12, 2020

Dear Grimmway Academy Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you and your family and loved ones have continued to be well throughout these challenging times.

As we begin our second quarter of the school year, I would like to provide a few updates – particularly around our timelines for students returning to campus for general instruction.

School Reopening Process

We recently submitted a waiver application to the Kern County Public Health Services Department (KCPHSD) that would allow Grimmway Schools to reopen for students in K-6th grade. Unfortunately, these are the only grades allowed to return under the waiver.

However, if Kern County’s risk level drops from “Widespread” (Purple), to “Substantial” (Red) then the entire County can reopen schools. California updates these levels every Tuesday, so we will know by tomorrow if we can reopen for all grade levels after a two-week period. Click [HERE](#) to track the Kern County COVID-19 Risk Levels.

Whether through the waiver - or as a result of Kern County moving to the “Red” category, when we reopen schools, we are still subject to the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Department of Public Health guidelines for safely reopening schools – namely the safe distancing requirements. As a result – and until these guidelines are changed - Grimmway Schools will only be allowed to have a maximum of 15 students per classroom when we return to in-person learning.

So, this will require Grimmway Schools to transition to our A/B Hybrid Model. Site leadership will notify you which “track” your child is on, “A” or “B.” We will make every effort to ensure that siblings attend on the same days. Details are contained in the Grimmway Schools Reopening Plan (Click [HERE](#)).

When will Grimmway Schools Reopen for In-Person Instruction?

We will reopen once the following criteria are met:

- 1) KDPHS approves our waiver (or Kern County moves into the “Red”), and

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- 2) Safety improvements to our campus have been made (air purification systems in classrooms, plexiglass dividers between desks, classrooms are set up to maintain 6 ft. of distance between students and staff, etc.)
- 3) Our health and safety protocols are in place and our staff has been trained on the new protocols.

We will not open campus until we are confident that every measure we can reasonably take to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment for your children and our staff have been taken. Our teams have been working tirelessly on our health and safety plans since school began in August in order to be prepared once school reopens.

When is that? We project that – all other things being equal - we will be announcing our schools reopening for in person instruction no sooner than late next week (October 22nd).

Does my Child Have to attend In-Person, or can they Continue with Distance Learning?

According to SB 98, for the 2020-21 school year, every public school in the State of California shall offer in-person instruction, and may offer distance learning. Once students return to campus, we are allowed to offer distance learning only under either of the following circumstances:

- (A) On a local educational agency or schoolwide level as a result of an order or guidance from a state public health officer or a local public health officer.
- (B) For pupils who are medically fragile or would be put at risk by in-person instruction, or who are self-quarantining because of exposure to COVID-19.

So, we can only offer your child a distance learning option if you consider them “medically fragile” or will be put “at risk” by in person instruction.

In order to ensure that we have proper staffing for both in-person and distance learning, it is important that you fill out the following form to notify us of whether or not your child meets the criteria for distance learning, or will be returning for in-person instruction. If your child meets the criteria for remaining in distance learning, we ask that they remain in Distance Learning at least until the end of the 2nd Quarter (Winter break) in order that we can plan our staffing accurately.

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We are asking that ALL families fill out the following form – whether your child will be returning to campus, or will remain in distance learning. :

**Click [HERE](#) to access the form in English.
Click [HERE](#) to access the form in Spanish.**

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

With gratitude and optimism,

Casey Yeazel

Chief Executive Officer
Grimmway Schools
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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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