



Greenfield Union School District

Distance Learning Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Educational Services

Will GUSD provide distance learning?

Yes, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Greenfield Union School District is eager to provide the best distance learning experience for all of our students. In following Governor Newsom's directive, quarter 1 will be distance learning. We will re-evaluate each quarter to determine if it is safe for students to return to school either in a hybrid model or full time. We will keep in mind the number of cases, the state of our county and city and state and county office directives when making these decisions. All parents will be kept informed regularly so that they may make appropriate arrangements.

What does distance learning mean?

Distance Learning is an instructional approach in which the student and teacher are in different locations. This may include interacting through the use of digital services, as well as delivering instruction and check-in time with their teacher. Distance learning may include video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and teacher is online interaction, instructional video, or other instruction that relies on a computer or communications technology (phone). It may also include the use of print materials incorporating assignments that are the subject of written (email) or oral feedback (phone calls).....

How will I continue to stay informed about the most recent updates as they relate to distance learning?

GUSD will continue to provide frequent updates via our distant website page, email and social media. As of now, we anticipate our distance-learning efforts will be indefinite.

Is school attendance mandatory during distance learning?

The state has requested school districts track attendance daily to comply with compulsory education requirements. It is important that students are regularly connecting with each teacher and completing the educational activities provided by the teacher. It is expected that students, with parents, remain fully engaged with their teachers in order to fulfill the compulsory attendance requirements.

My child is an English Learner, what supports are in place during distance learning?

The law requires districts to continue providing language development services to our students. Our site administrators are working closely with our teachers to ensure there is scheduled language development time for our English learners.

Will distance learning work be graded?

During this time of school closure, it is important that the learning continues and that students engage in distance learning. GUSD will take a "hold harmless" approach to grading by implementing a credit/no credit system. This is in accordance with the direction given by the California Department of Education.

How would VAPA and PE fit in with the instructional models?

We are currently looking at our instructional schedules for both distance learning models and hybrid learning so that we may determine a schedule for VAPA and PE. We will incorporate these subjects into our schedules.

Will students need to Zoom everyday? What times? Or sign in to Google classroom at a certain time?

We know that the state has recommended daily live instruction for our students. We are currently refining our daily schedules to determine when students will receive live instruction with their teacher(s). Each student and family will receive a schedule before the school year begins.

For ELD, will students be split based on levels or will they be staying with their teachers?

We want to ensure that our English learners have tailored support as much as possible. Our site administrators are working closely with our teachers to ensure there is scheduled language development time for our English learners that is differentiated and tailored to all of our English learners' needs.

Will parents be informed when they need to meet with a counselor?

Yes, parents will be contacted by the school site for any meeting. We will continue to provide all services that we would in a regular school year in a digital form.

Are computers being provided for Preschool, TK and Kindergarten students?

Yes, computers will be provided for our incoming Preschool, TK. We are currently in the process of determining a rotating schedule for students and parents to be able to pick up devices and supplies. More information will be forthcoming!

Are teachers going to be accessible during school hours?

Yes, teachers will be available when they are not in live sessions with students. Each teacher will send out information on the best way to reach them.

Will students have to take the state test in the Spring?

Yes, the students will take the SBAC in the spring. Again, this is a fluid situation and we will continue to look at state guidance for more information.

Can a supply list of student materials be provided in advance if parents choose to purchase them?

Please know that the district will provide supplies for students. In the event that a parent wishes to purchase supplies, please contact your school office for more information.

When the Hybrid model is implemented, will parents be able to decide if they want to continue distance learning?

We will evaluate at the end of each quarter if it is safe to move to the hybrid model. Each parent that has concerns with their child returning will be supported with distance learning. We ask that you contact your child's school with concerns.

Will there be live teachers during distance learning?

Yes, there will be live instruction during distance learning. Each student and family will receive a schedule for live instruction.

How are 8th grade students going to be supported to prepare them for promotion during distance learning?

Yes, 8th grade students will be supported to prepare for promotion. We will evaluate our promotion requirements and share them with parents.

How will distance learning for Grades 7-8 work for students with multiple teachers/subjects?

All 7th and 8th grade students will receive instruction in all core subjects. A schedule will be shared with students and parents with a schedule for distance learning.

What do we do with Chromebooks from the elementary school?

If your child has a Chromebook, we are asking that you keep the chromebook to use for the 2020-2021 school year. If your child did not pick one up and needs one, please call your child's school to make an appointment to pick one up. We want to make sure that each child has a Chromebook for distance learning in the fall.

How will you keep track of daily attendance?

Attendance will be critical regardless of the instructional model implemented. As a district, we want to minimize learning loss during this pandemic. Please note, we will be taking daily attendance each day. Much like a traditional school year, attendance and truancy letters will be sent home to families. If your child is absent from school, you will

receive a call from our school site to determine the reason for the absence. Our district and schools are ready to support our students and families during these unprecedented times.

Will there be packets or all on-line?

The district is planning on doing online instruction. Packets will only be given on a needed basis. For example, if a student is in a primary grade and needs handwriting practice, if a child needs individualized learning that requires a certain curriculum or if there is a lapse in internet service, each school site will provide a curriculum packet for students.

Can the district/school provide WiFi if the family does not have internet for children?

The district is currently actively pursuing solutions to ensure every student has access to WiFi. GUSD is working with the city to provide access points throughout the city of Greenfield. We continue to explore other alternatives such as hot spots for families. If you are a family without WiFi, please contact your child's school so that we may reach out to support.

When will we find out who our child's teacher is going to be?

We are currently creating class rosters. You will be notified who your child's teacher will be on the week of August 10th. This is the same timeline that we use during a traditional school year.

After School Program? How will this work?

What we know so far is that we will be funded for an afterschool program. We are currently gathering more guidance from the state for the structure of the program. We will notify parents as soon as we have all the details.

Will preschools continue?

Yes, preschool will continue in a modified manner. We want to make sure that we maintain a safe environment for all of our youngest learners. If your child is of preschool age, please be sure to pick up a registration packet so that we may register your child and send you more information about the structure of our programs.

Is it really required for the students to carry their laptops back and forth to school when Hybrid is implemented?

Yes, it will be very important for your child to take their Chromebooks to and from school. GUSD currently does not have enough Chromebooks for each child to have two, one for home and one for school. We kindly ask that you remind your child to keep their device charged and ready to go.

Are we able to take textbooks home?

If there is a subject that is not available online, we will look at distributing textbooks. This is in compliance to the Williams Act requiring that all students have access to their core textbooks. However, please note that most of our online textbooks are available online.

What is being done to improve distance learning?

We are taking several measures to improve distance learning. First, attendance will be required for each and every student on a daily basis. This will provide continuity of lessons and assignments. GUSD will also focus on using uniform platforms and organizing our curriculum in a similar manner. This will help families with multiple children to be able to navigate these platforms with ease. We will also be providing ongoing professional development for students, teachers and parents. In addition, we will abide by state requirements for instructional minutes and daily live instruction. We are confident that these adjustments will enhance the experience for our students, teachers and families.

What would distance learning look like for a student in TK or Kinder that has never had school experience or not familiar with a laptop, use of apps such as Google or Zoom?

For students in Preschool, Tk and Kindergarten, we will provide additional support and training with Chromebooks and applications. To support the process, we will be setting up a schedule and contacting parents to attend an orientation. In this orientation, students will be given their device and we will engage parents in professional development to be able to support their child.

How will homework assignments be assigned and turned in?

GUSD is looking to use Google Classroom to give and collect assignments. In the event that your child is given a learning packet, the teacher will set up a time to turn in the packet to the office.

How many students are allowed per classroom when they return to school?

When we begin a hybrid classroom, we will cohort the kids into an A and B cohort. We will take the class roster and divide the class in half to create the cohorts. This will allow us to social distance within the classroom.

Special Education & Student Services

What is the status of Section 504 plans during distance learning?

Accommodations in an individual student's Section 504 plan will remain unchanged during the distance learning. The counselor is the primary point of contact for parents and guardians of students with Section 504 plans and will continue to make contact with parents and guardians regarding any 504 needs.

What is the status of Special Education in SPED Classes and/or who are mainstreamed during distance learning?

All Special Education Students will continue to receive services as stated by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). A Prior written document may be needed to set forth any changes needed to provide FAPE through distance learning, and will be provided to the parent to ensure agreement and so school staff and the parent understand who will be providing services and how that will occur. This could be accomplished by developing a written document to amend or modify the child's current IEP. This may result in simply changing the service delivery from in-person to a distance learning delivery model, or may involve more extensive changes depending upon the needs of the individual student with a disability.

Will IEPs and special education services continue to be supported and how will that be reflected in the IEP if previous interventions were based on in class learning models?

For students with IEPs, the amount of daily interaction with service providers will be determined by the special education and related services the student is required to receive via the student's IEP. We will look at students case by case to determine if an amendment is needed.

How will occupational therapy services be implemented?

Occupational therapy services will continue to be provided via online therapy services. Students will also receive a packet to support the parents with tips, strategies, and activities.

Are immunizations for COVID-19 be required if one becomes available?

No. This will be at the discretion of each family.

What are the plans to help SDC students when they return?

Once it is deemed safe to return to the school site, all students' goals will be monitored by their case managers to ensure that students are making adequate progress and to identify any needs that they may have.

Is there a way that my child who has a learning disability can meet one on one with a teacher/special education staff instead of meeting on Zoom?

At the moment, a digital platform such as Zoom and Google Hangouts will be used. As soon as it is deemed safe to move into the Hybrid model, students will be able to meet with their teacher and/or special education staff member.

Safety Measures

How will visitors come to campus and offices?

At this time, we will not be allowing visitors or volunteers in the classrooms. If there is a question that you need answered, we encourage you to call us first to schedule a meeting before coming to the school. This will help us minimize person to person contact. All individuals entering the school or district offices will be provided with a health screening questionnaire and have their temperature checked as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control.

Will facemasks be provided for all students and staff when returning for Hybrid or full time sessions?

Yes, facemasks will be provided for all students and staff by GUSD.

When students return to campus, will there be HEPA filters or air purifiers in the classrooms?

Greenfield Union School District is placing orders for HEPA filters. Please rest assured that our existing air filters are checked and changed regularly.

How will temperatures be checked on students or staff who are asymptomatic with no fever?

All staff and students will have their temperature checked. Additionally, we will use a health screening questionnaire to determine if they have any symptoms. Asymptomatic individuals can only be identified through testing by a physician. For this reason, it is imperative that we follow all of the CDC guidelines and wear masks, not touch our face, wash our hands and practice social distancing.

How many staff members will be taking temperatures?

School sites will determine the number of staff members that will be assigned / required for temperature checks. All other departments will have staff members taking temperatures at the start of the business day.

If a student refuses to wear their mask, will they be allowed to stay in class?

Now more than ever, it's clear that the choices each of us makes affect not only our own health and safety but also the health and safety of those around us. If a student in grades 3-8 refuses to wear a mask, we will contact his/her parents and remove him from the classroom.

Are staff members going to be tested on a regular basis?

We would encourage our staff members to get tested on a regular basis. However, until this is a requirement from our Health Department, we can only recommend but not mandate it.

How are we going to ensure students are social distancing during recess and lunch?

Staff will be monitoring our students at all times to assure that social distancing guidelines are followed.

Will toilet seat protectors be provided on all campuses?

Yes, toilet seat protectors will be provided at every student and staff restroom.

How are classrooms, bathrooms and offices going to be sanitized on a daily basis?

GUSD custodians will clean and sanitize all classrooms, bathrooms and offices at the end of every school day. All custodians are assigned certain areas of campuses to insure all areas are cleaned and sanitized. All GUSD staff members are encouraged to help with sanitizing classrooms and offices. The District will provide disinfecting wipes.

Will students with chronic illnesses be able to learn from home?

Yes, students who have any health issues that are of concern can work from home pending approval of a home/hospital form by a doctor.

What will be the policy for students who show up with cold symptoms?

We will be requiring all staff and students that present any of the following symptoms to stay home: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. As a precautionary measure, a student that presents cold symptoms will be sent home.

How will drop off and pick-up be handled before and after school?

Our District's goal is to minimize contact between our student cohorts as much as possible. We will be implementing staggered pick up and drop off schedules. Additionally, we will be providing specific entrance and exits for our student cohorts, again, to minimize contact. Once we begin hybrid learning we will provide you with drop off and pick-up information from your child's school.

Can a child wear a face shield instead of a mask?

Students can wear face shields.

If students return to school, how will the district make sure students are safe and hygienic?

All of our students will receive instruction on all safety procedures to be followed both in school and out in the community. We will also have posters in our classrooms that will detail safety expectations in student friendly language.

If students return to school, what is the protocol for those students that are exposed or test positive for COVID-19?

The Monterey County Health Department will contact us if a student tests positive. We follow their guidelines on when the student can return to the school setting. Generally speaking, an individual/student who has been exposed will be asked to quarantine for 14 days. If the student who tested positive attended school and potentially exposed other students, we would contact the parents and ask that they self quarantine for 14 days. We will work closely with the Monterey County Health Department throughout this process.

When going into any school or district office, will people need to call and make an appointment in advance beforehand?

It is highly recommended that anyone needing to visit any school or district office call to make arrangements prior to the visit. If school sites and district offices cannot accommodate visitors, they will be given an appointment for a future visit.

Will classrooms be supplied with hand sanitizers, gloves, masks, soap, etc.?

All classrooms will be supplied with hand sanitizers, masks and all other sanitizing supplies. For the classrooms equipped with hand washing sinks, soap will be provided.

Will temperatures be taken for students who ride the bus?

Yes, students boarding GUSD transportation vehicles will have their temperature checked prior to boarding.

How will social distancing be enforced in the classrooms?

Classroom furniture will be separated to ensure social distancing is followed by all students.

Family Engagement

Will the district be offering Family engagement classes?

Yes, we will continue to have family engagement classes for parents in a modified fashion. We will be sending notifications via parent square for upcoming services and classes.

Will the Family Resource Center be open?

Yes, we will continue to provide available services through the FRC. Please be sure that you have an active parent square account for all of our flyers and notifications.

Will you have more than training at the Family Resource Center?

Yes, we will continue to partner with agencies around Monterey County to bring resources to our community. If you have a specific need, please contact your school site liaison for support.

How do I request support or assistance?

If you need assistance or support, please contact your school site liaison or the Family Resource Center. We will do our best to meet your needs!

Social Emotional Wellness

Will the district be offering Wellness services for Students?

Student wellness services will stay consistent whether we are participating in distance or hybrid learning. Also, all students are receiving wellness support via daily instruction, assemblies, and site-wide spirited weeks.

Students who have previously been supported by counselors will continue to receive this support. If your child needs additional wellness services, please contact your site to access the parent referral form.

Will the district be offering Wellness services for Staff?

Staff will receive support via the Employment Assistance Program (EAP) if needed. Our human resources department will also be hosting two mental health activities a month.

Food and Nutrition

Will the district be offering breakfast and lunch daily?

Yes, meals will be provided Monday through Friday on school days according to the School Calendar. Meals will be distributed from all of our school sites from 8:00am-10:00am by Food Service staff practicing all safety guidelines.

How are the meals that are being served selected?

As recommended by the USDA and CA Department of Child Nutrition, Individually Wrapped Products (IWP) are selected by staff to ensure daily nutrition requirements are met as defined by the USDA. The intent of using such products is to minimize the spread of the coronavirus by not handling food items children consume.

Will lunch be supplied in paper bags or plates?

For Grab-n-go, meals will be provided in paper bags as we serve breakfast and lunch together on a drive-thru basis.

What will breakfast and lunch schedules look like?

Meals will be distributed from all of our school sites from 8:00am-10:00am on a drive-thru basis. Breakfast and lunch will be distributed together.