

OUSDParents for Transparency and Safe Reopening Statement on OUSD and OEA Tentative Agreement

OAKLAND, CA – March 15, 2021 –OUSDParents for Transparency and Safe Reopening (OUSDParents) issues the following statement on the tentative agreement between the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and Oakland Education Association (OEA):

“OUSDParents is pleased that OUSD and OEA have reached a tentative agreement to return students to their classrooms over the next month. It has been 367 days since OUSD students saw the inside of their classrooms. Given the clear guidance from CDC and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) that it has been safe to reopen OUSD schools for some time, it’s a welcome sign that TK-2 will be back in 2 weeks- followed by additional grades by the middle of April. It should be a priority to return all grades in April and we hope OUSD and OEA work towards a return for all students who want to return. We have not yet seen the specifics of a return plan, including numbers of days or hours of instruction offered, but the fact that students will be inside classrooms in a matter of weeks alone is progress.

OUSDParents has spent the last 6 months in conversations with many of the stakeholders who came to this agreement. We have believed from day one that Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell wanted to get Oakland students back into classrooms safely this year and commend her and her team for working diligently to do so. We have also had ongoing conversations with most of our School Board Directors and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. They listened to the pleas from parents about their children’s deteriorating mental health and the impact isolation was having on them. We thank them for working to understand the academic and emotional harm that has been caused by a year of remote learning and for prioritizing the needs of Oakland’s children to receive in-person education.

We believe this agreement is an important first step to getting all kids back for five full days by the start of the 2021-22 school year in August, but we recognize that won’t happen without commitment from OUSD and OEA. Currently [59% of elementary](#) students nationwide are back for five full days and those numbers are 43% for middle school and 39.5% for high school. Those districts and communities have prioritized in-person education -- and the childrens’ need to receive it -- as essential. We urge OUSD and OEA to do the same here in Oakland and begin planning now for a full-time return 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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