



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Edition #11 – Week of June 15, 2020

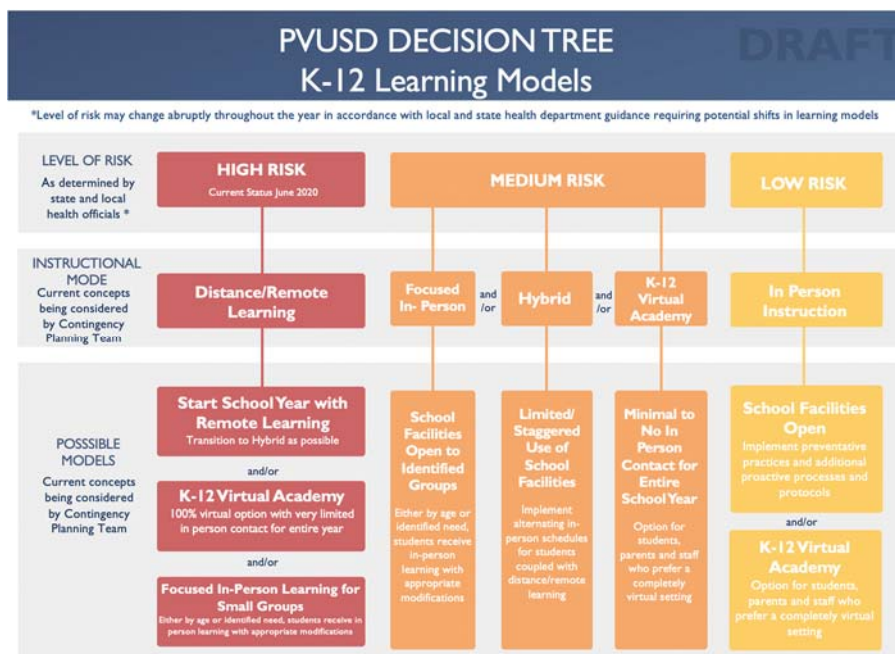
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community— only 5 questions were asked this week

1. I understand coding will be discontinued next year at the elementary level due to budget cuts which will only put our children further behind from an educational and technological standpoint. How is this justified?

We will continue to have the Computer Science Immersion Program at both Valencia Elementary and Ohlone Elementary using the Code to the Future curriculum next year. While we will not have the coaching support and contract with Code to the Future as they are no longer in business. The program will continue with the same curriculum and the Epic Builds using PVUSD Tech Coaches trained during these past two years.

2. What does this new school year look like for the students? Many of the students in this district come from migrant families, therefore distance learning can continue to be a struggle for these families. What are you doing as a district to provide students assistance with distance learning? Are you asking the right questions to get more funding for our students?

We are releasing our Reopening PVUSD Contingency Plan for parent and community feedback from June 19-June 26. In the graphic below you will see that the instructional options vary according to the current health conditions. Currently, we are operating under the “High Risk” category. If still under high risk health conditions, we will begin the year with distance learning for our students in grades 4-5 and 6-12. The in-person learning will focus mainly on students in grades TK-3. At grade levels 4-5 and 6-12 focused in-person learning for small groups of students with identified needs will occur.



All students in grades 2-12 within PVUSD were provided a Chromebook. We also provided 1,000 hot spots and worked continuously with internet providers to close the digital divide. We have received the first 1,000 of an additional 3,000 hot spots that will come from our Google partnership. Students kept their Chromebooks and the district hot spots throughout the summer so they may stay connected and continue to learn on our digital programs, through summer school and in credit recovery programs. This upcoming school year, we will provide a Chromebook to all students TK-12 grade. In terms of collective advocacy for additional funding for education, PVUSD worked in collaboration with Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers (PVFT) and California School Employees Association (CSEA) to develop a [collective legislative advocacy packet](#) with key talking points, telephone script and letter templates that can be used by staff and community member to support additional funding for schools at the state and federal levels.

3. With all the additional cleaning that will be taking place within the classrooms, Children could be exposed to many additional chemical hand sanitizers and harsh cleaners. Would you speak to the cleaning products that will be used within the school and if they are natural or synthetic?

As required by the Healthy Schools Act, PVUSD will only use disinfectants that are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use with COVID-19. We will ensure that our disinfectants and cleaners do not have chemicals that are known to cause asthma. In addition, we will not use disinfectant while in the presence of children. For the hand sanitizer, we will use a product that contains at least 60% alcohol and only with staff and with children who can safely use the product. Hand washing stations equipped with hand soap and water, will be added to the sites as it is still the best way to clean hands for all ages.

4. As stated by another parent previously, the level of learning and actual teaching has dropped dramatically during distance learning. Charter and private schools actually teach the lesson on zoom, PVUSD has not for elementary schools. Please be specific as to how that would change next year.

As we look to the next school year, we are using feedback from staff, students and families regarding the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. Several feedback themes are being addressed for the upcoming school year and are included in the Reopening PVUSD Contingency Plan released today. A few specific changes include a minimum required weekly virtual Google Meet session for all students and the implementation of a weekly schedule to support students and families in knowing what is required of them for the week.

5. If there is not a comprehensive and safe return for kids to return to school and I decide to put my son on independent studies, will that affect his spot at Aptos HS? Being that he will be attending on an intradistrict transfer.

We encourage you to consider our PVUSD K-12 Virtual Academy for the 2020-2021 school year so that you maintain guaranteed admission to your home school for the following school year. Enrollment for the K-12 Virtual Academy will occur from July 6-July 17, 2020.

6. I want to know how students are determined to be "high priority" since it was brought up more than once in the last set of questions.

High priority students are designated as students identified in one of the five following categories: 1) Foster and Homeless students, 2) Students with Special Education services, 3) Students significantly below grade level, 4) Students who did not actively participate in distance learning and 5) Underachieving Gifted and Talented students.