

Dear QCUSD Parents & Guardians:

8/11/2020

Thank you for continuing to choose QCUSD for your child to learn and grow. The start of the 20-21 school year looked very different this year. COVID-19 disrupted our lives in unimaginable ways and the issue of reopening schools is filled with passion and strong emotions. There are no easy answers or perfect plans to reopen schools; however, one thing is for certain, we are stronger together.

This evening (8/11) the Queen Creek Unified School District Governing Board voted for full-time, in-person instruction to begin at all QCUSD campuses on Monday, August 17. We hope this letter makes clear how the Governing Board reached this decision.

In a press conference on July 23, Governor Doug Ducey released [executive order](#) 2020-51 which states school districts themselves must decide when to resume in-person learning at schools; however, regardless of when in-person learning is to begin, schools need to provide on-site learning opportunities for students beginning August 17th. This executive order means that our schools need to be open, staffed and ready to welcome students on Monday. Because of this, our Governing Board feels that all QCUSD children should have the opportunity to be educated in-person.

Based on parent survey data and input from the community, the majority of our parents want some form of in-person instruction and they want a choice. This decision recognizes your needs. Families can choose between full-time, on-site instruction or they can choose to have their student continue learning through our long-term online learning solution (QCVA).

We know the Governing Board's decision comes with mixed reactions. Our Board considered various options, strategies and concerns associated with this decision. We realize people feel anxiety and uncertainty surrounding education during the pandemic. However, each community is different and faces different circumstances. Our community has unique needs, and the Governing Board was faced with a difficult situation. The Board took into consideration the facts, data, community needs, and mitigation plan and voted to do what they believe is in the best interest of their constituents.

While we cannot prevent COVID-19, we can do what is reasonable and feasible to mitigate the spread. To achieve this, we will execute sound mitigation strategies such as but not limited to: wearing facial coverings, staying home when sick, and best hygiene practices. This is a critical component to keeping schools open and everyone plays an important role in making this happen. Here is a sample of QCUSD mitigation strategies. The full plan will be updated tomorrow at qcusd.org. Together we will return stronger.

We value all of our QCUSD families, and we want the best for every student, family, teacher and staff member. Our staff and families have made us a great district and community. Together, we can continue the legacy of excellence we have all come to expect from QCUSD and we are looking forward to welcoming our students back on Monday!

Queen Creek Unified School District