

OUSD Parents for Transparency and Safe Reopening Demand Transparent and Good Faith Bargaining ***Says Neither OUSD or OEA's plans will get kids back in classrooms soon***

OAKLAND, CA – March 5, 2021 –OUSD Parents for Transparency and Safe Reopening (OUSDParents) is incredibly frustrated by the pace and lack of transparency in negotiations between Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and Oakland Education Association (OEA). California [now ranks 50th](#), dead last, in percent of children back in classrooms and there appears to be little urgency on the part of either OUSD or OEA to reopen schools this month, as the Board indicated was [their hope last month](#). This is unacceptable given the preliminary results of a survey conducted by OUSD last week. Over 90% of elementary school families have responded: 60% of respondents intend to return to in-person learning, if offered, this spring. OUSDParents issues the following statement on the state of negotiations in Oakland:

“Most troubling is the fact that the latest two proposals from OUSD capitulate to OEA demands to allow teachers to return only voluntarily even after being vaccinated. Educators have been prioritized for vaccinations and through efforts by state and local agencies, teachers in Oakland already received their first dose last month (or were given access to get it). While we believe teaching in person is essential work, teachers who have been prioritized over other essential workers and high-risk individuals are now free to remain at home indefinitely, if the current negotiation proposal stands.

Neither OUSD nor OEA's latest proposal follows the guidance from the CDC or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Given current Covid rates in Alameda County and Oakland, both agencies recommend that TK-12 be open for in-person instruction NOW. Additionally, OEA's latest proposal only calls for planning for a return to in-person cohorts to commence on or after March 15th, giving no date certain for a return to classrooms. Finally, OEA continues to strike from their proposals the requirement that students with disabilities be able to access Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), which ensures that students with disabilities will not receive IEP-mandated and other services.

The proposals from OUSD and OEA do not follow the guidance of our public health experts, either here in California or nationally, nor do they do anything to urgently return children to classrooms.”

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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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