

08/07/2020

To the DMUSD Staff and Board of Trustees -

We are so thankful for all the hard work DMUSD staff has put in over the last few months to plan for the upcoming school year. However, we have received various communications from concerned parents about policies, practices, and potential outcomes that we would like to bring to your attention.

1. Parents demand a mid-year option to change education programs (from Launch to in-person or vice versa). The reasons of staffing complications, space availability and nonalignment of the two curricula, are not sufficient in light of evolving student needs and safety, and the fact that other districts in the state are providing this option at this unprecedented time.
2. Families urge the district not to apply for a waiver, which essentially sidesteps the SD County watchlist and the California state order to remain online in the fall until numbers are down. Even the possibility of a waiver has thrown parental decision-making -- and teachers-as-parents decision making -- into disarray. The district can still provide in-person options to those who have special education needs given those distinct circumstances.
3. Launch students must remain affiliated with their home school and home school graduation, for social bonding and school identity, in addition to the socializing programs for Launch students.
4. In-person and Launch students should have an equitable learning experience. Parents that have chosen Launch for their children would like to see the same class sizes between the two options. While there are health challenges with in-person there are learning challenges with distance education as well. Parents do not want to see Launch classes overwhelmed to meet any kind of distancing requirements required for a waiver, or any other reason.

Thank you,

Carmel Del Mar PTA Board