



Salida Union School District Elementary School Waiver Application Cover Form

Please submit one application for each local educational agency or equivalent. If applying on behalf of a school district, please submit one application for all elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, please submit an application for each school.

Background Information

Name of Applicant (Local Educational Agency or Equivalent):

Salida Union School District

School Type:

- Traditional Public School
 Charter School
 Private, Independent, or Faith-Based School

Elementary Schools

Dena Boer Elementary

| Grade Level | In-Person | Distance Learning | Unknown | Total Students |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| TK | 0 | 22 | 0 | 22 |
| Kindergarten | 0 | 66 | 0 | 66 |
| 1 st Grade | 44 | 30 | 2 | 76 |
| 2 nd Grade | 43 | 27 | 2 | 72 |
| 3 rd Grade | 41 | 35 | 3 | 79 |
| 4 th Grade | 44 | 27 | 8 | 79 |
| 5 th Grade | 0 | 92 | 0 | 92 |
| Total | 172 | 299 | 15 | 486 |

Mildred Perkins / Independent Charter School

| Grade Level | In-Person | Distance Learning | Unknown | Total Students |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| TK | 0 | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| Kindergarten | 0 | 54 | 0 | 54 |
| 1 st Grade | 37 | 24 | 18 | 79 |
| 2 nd Grade | 34 | 28 | 7 | 69 |
| 3 rd Grade | 20 | 18 | 24 | 62 |
| 4 th Grade | 21 | 10 | 32 | 63 |
| 5 th Grade | 0 | 67 | 0 | 67 |
| Total | 112 | 217 | 81 | 410 |

Salida Elementary

| Grade Level | In-Person | Distance Learning | Unknown | Total Students |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| TK | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Kindergarten | 0 | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| 1 st Grade | 21 | 18 | 2 | 41 |
| 2 nd Grade | 30 | 24 | 1 | 55 |
| 3 rd Grade | 19 | 13 | 10 | 42 |
| 4 th Grade | 19 | 11 | 29 | 59 |
| 5 th Grade | 0 | 45 | 0 | 45 |
| Total | 89 | 163 | 42 | 294 |

Sisk Elementary

| Grade Level | In-Person | Distance Learning | Unknown | Total Students |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| TK | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Kindergarten | 0 | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| 1 st Grade | 21 | 18 | 2 | 41 |
| 2 nd Grade | 30 | 24 | 1 | 55 |
| 3 rd Grade | 19 | 13 | 10 | 42 |
| 4 th Grade | 19 | 11 | 29 | 59 |
| 5 th Grade | 0 | 45 | 0 | 45 |
| Total | 89 | 163 | 42 | 294 |

Total Students: 1,489

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: Twila Tosh

Address: 4801 Sisk Road, Salida, California 95368

Grades/Number of Students Proposed to be Reopened:

TK K 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

Date of Proposed Reopening: On or after October 26, 2020

Name of Person Completing Application: Twila Tosh, Superintendent

Phone Number: (209) 543-3119

Email: ttosh@salida.k12.ca.us

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I. Consultation

Please confirm consultation with the following groups:

Labor Organization

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

- Salida Teachers Association
 - April 8, 2020
 - June 10, 11, 23, 2020
 - July 13, 27, 2020
 - August 3, 24, 27, 2020
 - September 24, 2020
- California Classified Employees Association
 - April 14, 2020
 - June 24 & 25, 2020
 - July 17 & 28, 2020
 - August 4 & 24, 2020
- School Employees International Union, Local 521
 - July 30, 2020
 - August 24, 2020

Parent and Community Organizations

- District English Language Acquisition Committee 8/25/2020
- Local Control Planning Committee/School Site Council 8/26/2020
- Parent Meetings – September 3 & 4, 2020

Salida Union School District Board of Trustees

- Board Meetings Include the Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ Emergency Board Meeting – March 17, 2020
 - ❖ Regular Board Meeting – April 21, 2020
 - ❖ Regular Board Meeting – May 19, 2020
 - ❖ Regular Board Meeting – June 16, 2020
 - ❖ Special Board Meeting – August 11, 2020
 - ❖ Regular Board Meeting – August 18, 2020
 - ❖ Special Board Meeting – August 25, 2020
 - ❖ Regular Board Meeting – September 15, 2020
 - ❖ Special Board Meeting – October 6, 2020

Parents will retain the option to choose a complete distance learning program for their student(s) if desired.

II. Elementary School Reopening Plans

Please confirm that elementary school reopening plan(s) addressing the following, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local health department, and are published on the Stanislaus County Office of Education website.

General Virus Conditions for Waiver Application:

- To be activated when the 14-day case rate is <200 cases per 100,000 population.

General Reopening Plan:

The SUSD Administrative Team has prepared two learning models: Distance Learning, and 5-day in-person learning. As we have created the models, we have kept the health and safety of our staff, students, and community as a top priority.

Our goal is to bring our K through 5th grade students back to school for in-person learning under with the following phase progression in approach:

| Phase | Date | Plan |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| Phase I | October 26, 2020 | 1 st and 2 nd grade students return for 5-day in-person learning |
| Phase II | November 9, 2020 | 3 rd grade students return for 5-day in-person learning |
| Phase III | November 30, 2020 | 4 th grade students return for 5-day in-person learning |
| Phase IV | January 11, 2021 | Kindergarten and 5 th grade students return for 5-day in-person learning |

Parents may choose to keep their students on Distance Learning for the remainder of the school year.

Cleaning and Disinfection: Describe how shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.

- Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, copiers, sinks, tables, and desks are cleaned frequently throughout the day by trained custodians and staff members. Restrooms are cleaned twice daily and thoroughly cleaned and sanitized at the end of each day.
- Water fountains have been turned off and students are encouraged to bring water bottles. Water bottle filling stations will be available.
- When buses are back in service, they will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Students and drivers will use hand sanitizer when boarding and

exiting the bus. Drivers have been provided gloves and EPA approved cleaning/disinfecting materials.

- Individual supplies have been purchased in place of class sets to avoid sharing of objects to the extent practicable. If items are shared, they will be disinfected between uses.
- Ample cleaning and disinfecting supplies have been ordered that are approved for use against COVID-19 and are included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved list.
- Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout campus and in every building and classroom.
- Disposable masks, gloves, touchless thermometers, and disinfecting materials have been placed in every classroom.
- Doors and windows will be opened to introduce fresh air as much as possible on good air quality days.
- All air filters were changed on August 26, 2020 for added efficiency. Air filters will be changed 3 times per year.

☑ **Cohorting:** How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.

- Grade level staff members will work together as a cohort while maintaining social distancing and wearing a face mask when social distancing cannot occur. All efforts will be made to avoid mixing of staff and student cohorts to the extent possible.
- Each cohort/class will remain together with fixed membership that stay together for all activities and minimize/avoid contact with other students that are not part of the cohort.
- Arrival and dismissal times have been staggered to avoid large gatherings and mixing of cohorts. Parents are to remain in their car when picking up children to avoid further exposure and mixing.

Classroom Cohorting Protocols

- Classrooms have been redesigned to have all desks facing one direction and separated to the greatest extent possible. Individual student desk sneeze guards will be provided.
- Classroom routines have been revised to support social distancing, one-way direction movement, including minimizing contact when turning in assignments.
- Students will have assigned seating and individual supplies.
- Students will be given an identified area to keep their belongings, so they do not mix with others.
 - Utilize digital work and materials whenever possible to minimize exchange of materials

- Suspend use of shared items such as game pieces, toys and art supplies
 - Backpacks and coats will be stored to avoid co-mingling
- Assign Chromebooks for single student use throughout the year
- Lunches brought from home should be in paper bags and include food packaging that can be thrown away after eating
- Shared spaces will be minimized
- Hand wash/sanitize upon entry to classroom and before snack time or lunch
- Wipe down desk and seat upon leaving each day

Restroom Cohorting Protocols

- Restrooms will be checked hourly; cleaning high touch areas of faucets and door handles.
- Restrooms will be deep cleaned and sanitized at end of each day.
- Restrooms will be used by classroom cohorts during scheduled breaks; a staff member will monitor entrance and egress of students to make sure we limit number of students at any one time.
- Students will sanitize hands before entering and wash hands before exiting.
- Students will be reminded to maintain social distancing.
- All restrooms will be checked for appropriate supplies.

Recess Cohorting Protocols

- Classes will adhere to a staggered recess schedule with one cohort on each play yard at a time or designated play area.
- Areas have been identified for each grade level to play outside to avoid mixing with other grade levels. Classes within the grade level will stay separate to the greatest extent possible.
- Students will be reminded of social distancing practices.
- Use of balls, equipment and play structures will be evaluated at the time of reopening.
- All students will return to class in a scheduled fashion to avoid congestion in the exterior hallways.
- All students will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after recess.

Transportation Cohorting Protocols

- When riding on the school bus, students will sit one per seat using a zig zag pattern.
- Families may ride together.
- Windows will remain open to the greatest extent practicable.
- Students and drivers will wear facemasks while on the bus.

- Busses will have extra new unused face coverings for students that forget to wear one.

Cafeteria Cohorting Protocols

- Lunch schedules are staggered to reduce the number of students being served at one time.
- Designated tables indoors and outdoors will be used for breakfast and lunch to avoid mixing cohorts.
- Students will maintain social distancing while eating.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

- Students and staff wash their hands or use hand sanitizer as they enter or exit any area. Hand sanitizer is available in front of the school, in every building and in every classroom.
- Volunteers are not allowed on campus until the County Health Officer approves their participation to avoid social mixing.
- Parents who attend a conference with their child will go through a health screening, have their temperature taken and are not allowed to mix with other parents. The parent must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.
- Outdoor space will be utilized when practicable.
- Signage is in place to ensure 6ft distancing while waiting to enter facilities.
- Students will line up in a designated area utilizing social distancing, temperatures will be taken, and hand sanitizer will be used before they enter the classroom.
- Plastic barriers will be used in all reception areas and for small groups in primary grades and Special Education.
- Transition times will be altered to avoid congestion in the hallways.

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear: Describe how CDPH’s face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.

Salida Union School District will adhere to the California Department of Public Health face coverings regulations.

| Age | Face Covering Requirement |
|---|---------------------------|
| Under 2 years old | No |
| 2 years old – 2 nd grade | Strongly encouraged |
| 3 rd grade – 5 th grade | Yes, unless exempt |

SUSD will provide face coverings for all staff and students who do not bring their own:

- Disposable masks are available for staff and students.

- Face Shields are provided to all staff upon request and must be worn with drapes.
- All staff are required to wear a face covering unless they are instructing students in a way where their mouth needs to be visible (speech, special education, ELD, language lessons, beginning reading instruction, working with young children), in which case, they can wear a face shield with drape, but must observe social distancing. Once instruction is over they must return to using a face covering.
- Following CDPH Guidance, students who are not exempt from wearing a mask and choose not to wear a mask will be referred to the Distance Learning Program.
- Masks can be removed for eating, drinking and for outdoor recreation.
- Students riding the bus must wear a mask during transport.
- Information will be provided to all staff and families in the school community on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf

In addition to the above essential protective gear, the following will also be provided:

- Provided gloves for food service workers, health care staff and maintenance and operations workers.
- Provided synthetic gloves for use with disinfectant spray and paper towels in each classroom.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff: How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.

- All employees will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms each day before reporting to work.
 - A daily health checklist screening, provided by the district, will be taken by the employee before they leave their house for work. A log verifying completion of the daily health check will be completed by each employee and turned into their department director or site principal.
 - If a staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, the staff member will not report to work and will consult with a medical professional.
- Parents will be responsible to assist their student to complete a daily health checklist screening, provided by the district, for COVID-19 symptoms each day before coming to school.
 - Parents will be provided the health checklist screening tool.
- All staff members and students have been instructed to stay home if they are sick, have been directly exposed to a person with COVID-19 or have any symptoms of COVID-19, including if they have a fever of 100 or higher. As of

July 2020 COVID-19 symptoms include shortness of breath, chills, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, diarrhea and new loss of taste or smell.

- Parents and students who enter campus for an appointment must also have their temperature taken and verbal health screening.
- If a staff member becomes sick during the day it is reported to their supervisor and they are to go home immediately.
- If a child becomes sick or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus they are taken to an identified sick area to reduce possible further exposure and their parent is contacted to pick them up immediately. The nurse and student will continue to wear their face masks.
- The nurse maintains a record of all illnesses and COVID related incidents for students. The Superintendent maintains all records of illness and COVID related incidents for staff.
- If any student or staff member is confirmed to have the virus, the entire school community will be notified, and the County Health Officer will direct next steps for that respective department or student population.

Healthy Hygiene Practices: The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

- Teachers will provide foundational lessons on hygiene & the impact of COVID during the first two weeks of school and regularly reinforce the routines
- Health and hygiene practices will be followed in accordance with the COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs published by California Department of Public Health (CDPH) section 2, on promoting healthy hygiene practices
- Routine hand washing times will be scheduled throughout the day for students
- Hand sanitizer is available in all buildings. Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer as they enter and exit the classroom
- All classrooms are stocked with disinfectant spray bottles to clean surfaces quickly and easily
- Staff will continually monitor and educate students on the importance of social distancing
- Teachers will frequently review hand washing and sanitizing lessons from the first two weeks of school
- Resources will be shared with families for proper handwashing procedures

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>

Identification and Tracing: Describe the actions the staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and

staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

- SUSD will consult with Stanislaus County Public Health on topics including but not limited to tracing all close contacts of confirmed cases and instructing those individuals to quarantine or temporarily closing the workplace and quarantining all employees.
- SUSD will participate in providing data updates to the contact tracing database created by Stanislaus County Public Health
- SUSD will conduct contact tracing and quarantining of close contacts of confirmed cases in the workplace.
 - Confirmed staff and student cases will be documented in a spreadsheet by the site and district
 - SUSD will provide information to the Stanislaus County Health Department on the confirmed COVID-19 case employees in the workplace, including job titles, work areas, close contacts in the workplace, dates of symptom onset, and departments worked while infectious.
 - Establish interview practices, of the cases to determine their close contacts.
 - Close contacts, should be instructed to quarantine at home for 14 days from their last known contact with the employee with COVID-19. Close contacts should be tested for COVID-19
 - A close contact is someone who spent 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 infection during their infectious period, which includes, at a minimum, the 48 hours before the individual developed symptoms.
 - Interview employees with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by phone to determine when their symptoms began, the departments they worked during their infectious period, and to identify other employees with whom they had close contact during their infectious period.
 - While at home, close contacts should self-monitor daily for COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, chills, shaking chills, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, body or muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite).
- Salida Union School District contact person:
For employee and student cases: Assistant Superintendent (209) 543-3113
- SUSD Site Contacts:
 - Dena Boer Elementary Principal (209) 543-8163
 - Mildred Perkins/ICS Principal (209) 545-4415
 - Salida Elementary Principal (209) 545-9394
 - Sisk Elementary Principal (209) 545-1671
 - Salida Middle School Principal (209) 545-1633

- ☑ **Physical Distancing:** Describe how space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.

The district has made the following efforts to maximize available classroom space for Social Distancing:

- SUSD has instructed staff to use face coverings and maintain physical distancing from each other in order to reduce transmission between adults
 - Staff meetings, professional development, etc. have been moved to a virtual format if physical distancing cannot be implemented.
 - Spacing for student desks will be maximized as feasible and all desks will face forward to minimize face to face contact. Individual student sneeze guards will be used.
 - Spacing for room arrangement will be maximized as feasible to maintain separation.
 - Teachers have been instructed to remove any personal belongings that infringe on available school or classroom space.
 - The use of classroom libraries will be temporarily suspended.
 - Physical markers will be placed outside of any areas where students may need to line up.
 - Band and Choir will temporarily be suspended from practice due to the increased risk for transmission through the exhaling of contaminated droplets.
 - Doors and windows will be opened whenever feasible to maximize air flow and keep air circulating.
 - Field trips, assemblies, and other large group gatherings are restricted to virtual.
 - Site visitors and volunteers will be temporarily suspended.
- ☑ **Staff Training and Family Education:** Describe how staff will be trained, and families will be educated, on the application and enforcement of the plan.
 - Staff and parents/guardians will be provided with SUSD's Detailed Reopening Plan through Aeries Communication, in addition to the plan being posted on the district website
 - Staff has undergone self-paced, online training regarding COVID-19 provided by the district's liability carrier through Target Solutions
 - Phase 2 preparations, returning students to in person learning, have been discussed and reviewed with staff since school closing, final plan will be distributed to all staff and reviewed with department directors or site administrators as well as posted on the district website
 - Routine reminders of the most pertinent parts of the plan will be made via signage, Aeries Communication, staff meetings as well as verbal reminders. These parts of the plan include:
 - Enhanced sanitation practices
 - Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
 - Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings

- Screening practices
- How COVID-19 is spread
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification for staff and students
- SUSD's plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school.
- SUSD's plan and procedures to protect students and employees from COVID-19 illness.
- The plan will be updated and reviewed frequently and amended at any time to meet the safety needs of SUSD or in the event of changes made by local, state, or federal jurisdictions.

☑ **Testing of Students and Staff:** Describe how school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

- The SUSD will participate in routine staff testing under the county-wide testing initiative being coordinated by the Stanislaus County Office of Education following guidelines provided by the California Department of Public Health and the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency.
- Testing of all staff on duty at district facilities will follow the current California Department of Public Health guidelines requiring employees to be tested every two months; 1/8 of the employee workforce being tested weekly.
- Staff testing and facilitation of testing locations appointments will be coordinated through the Human Resources department under the direction and supervision of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources/Child Welfare & Attendance.
- The District will utilize contracted vendors for testing at district facilities and/or local testing facilities within our district attendance boundary.
- The Assistant Superintendent will coordinate and monitor the scheduling and administration of COVID-19 staff testing and removal from work during periods of quarantine for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19. The Assistant Superintendent will also coordinate all return to work stipulations.
- School site principals and the school nurse will coordinate and monitor the testing of students and removal of students from school during periods of quarantine for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

☑ **Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:** Describe the criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

- If there is an exposure in a classroom – the class may be quarantined for 14 days and move back to distance learning during this time.

- If 5 % of the total school/District population is positive, or if there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts, the entire school could be closed for in person learning for 14 days.
- All of this would be done with the assistance of, and in consultation with, the County Public Health Department.

☑ **Communication Plans:** Describe how the Superintendent will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPPA. Please specifically refer to 34 CFR 99.3.

- In coordination with the County Public Health Officer, SUSD will use Aeries Communication to immediately communicate to affected stakeholders of potential virus exposures. This communication will be consistent with legal counsel guidance regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- SUSD Human Resources Director will communicate with affected employees directly.
- Site administrators will communicate with student families of affected cohorts.
- SUSD will consult with County Public Health on topics including but not limited to tracing all close contacts of confirmed cases and instructing those individuals to quarantine or temporarily closing the workplace or classroom and quarantining all employees or cohorts of students.
- SUSD will conduct employee and student contact tracing and quarantining of close contacts of confirmed cases in the district.
 - SUSD will provide information to the Stanislaus County Public Health Department on the confirmed COVID-19 case employees in the workplace, including job titles, work areas, close contacts in the workplace, dates of symptom onset, and departments worked while infectious.
 - SUSD will provide information to the Stanislaus County Public Health Department on the confirmed COVID-19 case students on campus, including cohort membership.
 - SUSD will conduct interviews of the cases to determine their close contacts.
 - Close contacts should be instructed to quarantine at home for 14 days from their last known contact with the employee with COVID-19.
 - A close contact is someone who spent 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 infection during their infectious period, which includes, at a minimum, the 48 hours before the individual developed symptoms.
 - Interview employees with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by phone to determine when their symptoms began, the departments they worked during their infectious period, and to identify other employees with whom they had close contact during their infectious period.

- Use employment records to verify areas worked during the infectious period and other employees who may have worked closely with them during that time period.
- While at home, close contacts should self-monitor daily for COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, chills, shaking chills, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, body or muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite).
- SUSD must maintain confidentiality of employees and students with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection when communicating with others.
 - SUSD should notify all employees or students who were potentially exposed to the individuals with COVID-19.
 - Close contacts of cases will be given instructions on home quarantine 14 days from exposure and symptom monitoring. SUSD will also recommend that employees that have a close contact to someone with a positive COVID-19 case be tested between 5 to 7 days and again 11 to 14 days from the date of exposure.
 - Provide any employees who are sent home before or during a shift with information about what to expect after they are sent home (e.g., instructions about testing, sick leave rights under federal, state, and local laws and district policies, return-to-work requirements, etc.).

In some outbreaks, but not all, employees and students who were never symptomatic and did not have close contact with any of the laboratory confirmed cases may continue to work or attend school, as long as the district has implemented all control measures as recommended by public health authorities, Cal/OSHA, or other regulatory bodies.