

Julie Enea

From: Melissa Martin
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Julie Enea
Subject: Public Comment - Essential to Open CoCo Schools!

I am writing to you in hopes that you recognize the need for our county school children to return to in-person learning as soon as we reach the Red Tier plus the required two weeks.

Public school children all over this country who reside in towns and counties with cases MUCH higher than our have successfully returned for both full time and hybrid.

I have both a seventh grade daughter and a freshman daughter and I am very concerned about their mental and physical well-being. While I am appreciative of the efforts of our school districts to offer a more robust academic experience, I witness the negative effects of online learning on a daily basis. Normally enthusiastic about school my daughters' have a general malaise about learning, are truly missing peer and teacher interaction and are experiencing extreme isolation and bouts of depression. The distance learning model is not sustainable for the long term.

We need our local leaders to insist the districts to plan to return to school. We cannot simply err on the side of extreme caution to protect certain members of our community while other districts all over the country are putting children's needs first by focusing on opening schools in a "new safe normal" way and not defaulting to DL. The mental health, social and physical development and general well-being of our children depend on it!

Remote learning is not a healthy option anymore - and districts all over the country are proving students can return to school and that it's ESSENTIAL to their health and well-being!

Sincerely,
Melissa Martin
Lafayette, CA