



Alternative Options to In-Person Learning TK-8

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of elementary (TK-8) students:

We at Manteca Unified School District are consistently working to readjust and realign programming based on current conditions and student needs. At this time, we understand families have unique needs.

There are several learning options for all families during Phase 2 . These options, which were made available in early November, include:

- Continued participation in the hybrid in-person learning model.
- MUSD Online Academy, at home learning, for the remainder of the school year. Please note, those families who previously met with their site administrator and added their student's name to those interested in the Online Academy will be placed by January 6, 2021.
- Transferring to our Independent Study program **updated** to include access to live support daily and a robust curriculum.

Students/families interested in reviewing their educational options should contact their site administrator.


Frequently Asked Questions

Why did MUSD move to Phase 2?

- The Public Health officer permitted in-person instruction when San Joaquin County moved from the Purple Tier to the Red Tier. As a response, MUSD implemented a modified schedule (Phase 2) while optimizing health mitigation efforts. Students returned to in-person instruction two days a week beginning on November 2, 2020. We believe in-person instruction to be the best educational practice. Though San Joaquin County moved back to the Purple Tier, schools are still authorized to be open and will remain in Phase 2 (modified schedule) until further notice. We understand this may be confusing as tier regression is announced by Dr. Park of SJCPHS based on metrics developed for California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Schools follow criteria within the [K-12 reopening school sector framework](#).

Why can't my student just stay on distance learning all year?

- There is a possibility that MUSD may move to Phase 3 during the school year and the modified schedule (am/pm or A/B schedule) will end and students will return to their full week schedule. At that point, there will be no more distance learning and teachers will no longer be teaching on Teams. The transition to Phase 3 is dependent on conditions in place in San Joaquin County. Therefore, a long-term commitment must be made to avoid students losing grade-level standards between programs and/or schools. It will take much preparation to move students from their current school to Online Academy or the Independent Study program. A transition of this magnitude will include moving or hiring teachers in addition to adjusting schedules.
- In order to provide the most optimal educational program, MUSD will need time to prepare so that we can move students in an orderly way with the least amount of disruption and education disconnections. Teachers have adapted curriculum and teaching practices admirably; the hybrid



model is a very challenging way to teach and learn and is not optimal for students or educators. Distance Learning at elementary schools is not an optimal learning environment for students as the curriculum is not designed for an online platform.

- Our teachers have many years of experience with in-person instruction, which is our primary model of education. The distance learning model we have developed is temporary in response to the pandemic.
- Online Academy and Independent study programs were designed for student remote learning. The course work is adapted for this environment.

What other MUSD programs are available if I do not want my student to come back two days a week in person?

- The Online Academy program is designed as a complete online platform delivered through Edmentum Courseware with local MUSD teachers or EdOptions teachers. Teachers meet with students in a virtual setting. Classes are standards aligned with customized learning that meet California grade-level standards. For state reporting purposes, the Online Academy is part of Golden West Elementary School, however students receive their education online at their home.
- The Revised and Improved Independent Study program may meet the needs of students as an alternative for those not ready to return to in-person learning. Independent Study uses a different online platform known as Grad Point. This mastery level program uses a blended learning environment— both live instruction and independent work. The program will include daily meetings for students with their Independent Study teacher where they will receive feedback on their completed work and collect work for the week ahead. Teachers will have assigned office hours daily to further support students needing individual and direct help. Teachers will also provide curricular support and pacing to help students navigate the Grad Point web-based curriculum in the sequential mode. Grading is based on standard mastery of post-tests that are proctored in person by an Independent Study instructor.

What if my student is in Special Education classes?

- Please contact your child's current site administrator to facilitate a meeting with the Program Specialist to determine if the Online Academy or Independent Study are appropriate. Acceptance to either program would be conditional based upon the IEP determination of FAPE.

Will my student be able to participate in athletic or extra-curricular events if we choose Online Academy or Independent Study?

- Please note: Elementary School athletics through the Acorn League have been suspended through 2021.

What if families choose the Online Academy / Independent Study Program after December 18th?

- If a parent or student decides they want to enroll in the Online Academy / Independent Study, they will go through the Adult Ed. Application process. Enrollment will be based on space available.