

Members,

Many of you are concerned because you have heard a rumor that the district applied for a K-2 waiver. Let me clarify what we know today.

1. **The district has not yet applied for this waiver.**
2. An application for a preschool waiver was submitted more than 7 weeks and has not yet been approved
3. The waiver process gives priority to schools of greatest need first (those with the most free and reduced lunches in the county) and it is not on a first come first serve basis. Once SMMUSD waiver application is in to the LACDH, if other applications come in with more “students of need” they will move ahead of our district. Only 30 school sites per week are allowed to be approved. To date there are over 120 applications pending.
4. The terms and conditions (the implementation), and the impacts and effects of a waiver must be negotiated.
5. Once (if) negotiated and ratified, then teachers would then be given 5 days’ notice before the implementation date.

The district does want to turn in an application, but they have stated at the bargaining table that nothing would reopen before January 5. If approved, teachers and staff must be given a five-day notice. We do not intend to allow notice to be given over winter break - so the earliest opening for TK-2 would be January 12 *if* a waiver is approved by then and *if* we have an agreement on the terms, conditions, and implementations.

Those members who have currently returned to work with small groups of students - are doing so voluntarily with (assessment) or athletics (conditioning). NO ONE has yet been directed to return to work and the union continues to bargain over each and every issue that arises.

Regarding the K-12 waiver, if you are unable to return because of your age, you are health vulnerable, you are caring for someone (who lives in your household) who is health vulnerable, or your child’s school or childcare facility is closed, you may request a leave or request accommodations to continue to teach in distance learning. You will need a letter from your health practitioner, or some proof of the school or childcare closure to verify those needs

Your bargaining team is negotiating with the district on four more issues they have brought to the union: reopening the CDS program in some capacity, special education small group cohorts, a TK-2 waiver, and hybrid models. *We want to point out that the state is requiring hybrid models to be developed and reported to the CDE.* We must work with the district on this issue.

We believe our members -- the teachers and staff who do the day to day work of educating and supporting our students -- best understand the complexities and prerequisites for a safe return to schools and classrooms. We encourage you to participate in sessions held at your school site and/or by SMMCTA representatives to voice your thoughts, concerns, and ideas for how to progress in these uncertain times. Know the union and your bargaining team will continue to work to protect the interests of our members and to keep you safe to the very best of our ability.

You can review our MOU and all of the approved addendums 1 – 6, on our website. We will continue to communicate with our members via email and post information to our website at www.smmcta.com.