

Frequently Asked Questions Part I:

Remote Instruction to Start/In Person When Viable & Leading Edge Virtual School (LEVS)

General Topics: Remote Instruction to Start/In Person & LEVS

Topic	Question	Answer
Webinar	Where can I watch the webinar?	The webinar can be found here: https://stream1.sdcoe.net/wc/smusdschooloptions
	What is Leading Edge Virtual School?	Please watch the webinar linked above for a detailed description of LEVS.
Flexibility	If we chose the Remote Instruction/ In Person When Viable . Are we able to change to LEVS in case we personally don't feel safe yet? Due to high risk family members at home?	We recognize that families who choose the Remote to Start/In Person when viable option may find that their circumstances have changed when schools return to learning on the physical campus. When the Return to In-Person Instruction has been deemed viable, the district will have a process in place for families to request a transfer to a virtual school option based on space and staffing availability.
	What kind of flexibility are you going to be able to offer to shift out of the Virtual School option into an in-person option if the parents themselves are required to return to work in person?	At this time enrollment into LEVS is a year-long commitment; families may request transfer to Remote to Start/In Person option based on space and staffing availability.
First Day of School	What is the first day of class?	The first day of school is August 18th. The first 2 weeks will be half days for students.
Attendance	How will attendance be taken?	Attendance will be taken by teachers when students login everyday.
Reopening	We live in San Diego & are all at the beach daily. Can we please hold class outside 6 ft social distancing. Our kids need it!	Per Governor Newsom's July order, schools in counties on the state Monitoring list may not physically open; San Diego County remains on the Monitoring list. The SMUSD Governing Board will be conducting Study Sessions that will include discussions regarding a physical reopening plan based on best practices, and current knowledge of safe school openings; San Diego County off the

		watchlist, what are the next steps; site based health and safety procedures; and student/staff expectations for a safe and healthy return to physical campus.
	Can they resume going back to school as soon as it's ok or do they have to wait until the end of a semester?	As soon as it is deemed safe to return, based on direction from the State, County, and School Board.
	My son is with me on the East Coast for summers and breaks. Is it an option for him to remain here for school at least to start? And / or go back and forth more often and participate from here as well.	Yes, we are starting instruction remotely.
Class Ratios & Scheduling	What are the class ratios for LEVS at each level (Elementary, Middle and High.)?	Ratios will be comparable to the traditional classroom model.
	For LEVS, are students assigned to one teacher?	Elementary students will be assigned one teacher and secondary students are assigned a team of teachers.
	If consistency of staffing is the reason for the year-long commitment, why not have teachers move back to school with students at second semester and continue with this model?	LEVS is a separate and distinct model from our traditional schools with a focus on interdisciplinary problem based curriculum; designed so with the intention that the school and it's instructional model will remain an educational option for students beyond the 20/21 school year.
	We can't make a decision unless we know exactly which electives there are and how the dual enrollment works. Can we still sign up for classes at the CC even though they start in a few weeks.	Electives at LEVS: CTE Informational Technology/Computer Science, General Art 1 and 2. In addition AP Seminar and Research. Students are encouraged to enroll in concurrent/dual enrollment for other electives.
Print Materials	For the off-screen work, will I have to shoulder the costs of printing at	Materials will be available for pick up at school sites (elementary) by unit of study (approximately every 3-4 weeks).

	home? Or will materials be provided for pickup at our school site?	
	When do we get necessary supplies? (Books, Chromebook, classes, etc.)	These will be available for pick up at the school site prior to the first day of school. Schools will communicate specifics with their families.
Parent Support	Will it be mostly online learning and do parents have to be extremely involved like last year? I'm working from home for the time being and it's super challenging juggling both teaching and assignments while working.	Remote instruction will be different from last year's emergency, crisis, distance-learning model. There will be a combination of screen and non-screen activities in both models. Teachers will be instructing in core subject areas, while parents will support students in independent/practice work. If you are having challenges, communicate with your child's teacher. Our teachers are here to help everyone have a positive experience.
Special Education	Can SPED push in services into the 2.5 ELA/math time during teacher time or will it all be pull out during the aide time?	Sped services will be reflective of the IEP. If the IEP reflects services in general education that is where they will be received
	What happens to the students in either program who have learning difficulties but were not assessed as having enough of a challenge for support in the traditional school environment? What support will be given for these students who fell into the cracks at the end of the 19/20 school year?	Students will be assessed in ELA and Math at the beginning of the school year to determine any learning gaps that they may have. Both LEVS and Remote Instruction/In-Person when viable imbed differentiation and supports within the instructional day. This includes small group instruction and 1:1 conferring to provide students with more individualized supports. Additionally, will both programs will offer supports outside of school hours (e.g. outside tutoring).
Enrollment	What happens if too many people sign-up?	We will accommodate enrollment accordingly.
Administrator	Will LEVS have it's own principal, or will that still be connected to each student's resident school?	LEVS will have an administrator overseeing the program.
Teacher Professional Development	Is there any connection between LEVS and Leading Edge Certification? Will LEVS teachers or Remote Instruction teachers be	A menu of ongoing PD will be offered to teachers. They are not required to earn Leading Edge Certification, though a group of District leaders is certified and is able to guide teachers in these principles.

	provided the option to go through that certification, or encouraged to do so?	
	What teachers will be teaching this program? Skilled remote teachers or the teachers that can't/don't want to be at school. I understand the predicament, but not all of the teachers successfully engaged students remotely. 2 of the 6 completely failed at the end of the year.	SMUSD teachers will apply to LEVS and will receive ongoing PD in remote instruction and will work collaboratively in creating a rigorous distance learning environment for students.
	What has SMUSD done to prepare to teach in this "Leading Edge" Virtual School Model?	All curriculum at LEVS aligns to SMUSD approved curriculum. Teachers will have 6 days before school starts and 2 weeks of half day PD in order to prepare for the LEVS model.
Kindergarten	Why is the Leading Edge Virtual School only until 11:30am and the Remote Instruction to Start go until 2pm for kindergarten? That makes absolutely no sense to have two different times. Kindergarten's can't do 6 hours of zoom!	Remote instruction is temporary, and mirrors the traditional school model, while LEVS is a separate and distinct all-virtual school. Students will engage in both screen and non-screen activities, and will have breaks included. Screen time will not be 6 hours a day.

[Remote Instruction to Start/In Person When Viable](#)

Remote Instruction to Start/In Person When Viable: Elementary

Topic	Question	Answer
Flexibility	Why can't the Remote/Return When Safe kids have the same exact instruction as LEVS while remote? Also, what flexibility will there be for full-time working parents without help? Please explain flexible options for full-time working families who want their kids to go back to the classroom when safe.	LEVS is a TK-12 virtual school that is separate and distinct from Remote Instruction, and will continue after physical campuses reopen. Remote Instruction is designed with a "return to school when viable" program, and is a temporary, online adaptation of traditional school. LEVS and remote instruction (return to school when viable) will include screen and non-screen options. Students in both programs will receive hard copies of ELA and Math materials for practice activities. Breaks are also built in for students throughout the day. The instructional minutes are determined based on

		guidance from the CA Department of Education. Students are expected to cover one full year of standards and content in 2020-2021, in order to ensure adequate preparation for the next grade level in 2021-2022. Please communicate with your child's teacher if you need recommendations as to how best support your student at home.
Curriculum	Will I have access to the teacher's guides to ela, math, science curriculum? Does Benchmark use a "science of reading" approach? Will the school be lending out the actual materials (decodable books, text books, consumables etc.)? Can all students have access to the project based learning projects?	Individual teachers will design their own delivery models, based upon the needs of their students (K will look different from 5th). Benchmark is an evidence-based reading program adopted by the State of California. Teachers will be responsible for all core instruction, and will support parents in independent practice activities at home. All elementary students will be given consumable materials to use at home for ELA and math. Projects will not be required by teachers outside of LEVS, but project outlines will be shared with all upon request.
Daily Live Instruction	Is remote schooling four days a week or five days a week? Last semester we only had schooling Tuesday through Friday, which is why I ask. This question applies both to remote instruction and leading edge.	Students in both Remote Instruction/In-Person When Viable and LEVS will have daily live instruction.
	Will the live teaching be recorded so students/families can access later?	Teachers will provide live teaching in all core subject areas. While teachers may record some sections of lessons, student privacy laws do not allow for the recording and posting of all portions of lessons.
Screen Time	The time requirements are pretty extensive in the LEVs schedule for online computer time. Is that going to be required everyday? Are letter grades assigned for each model (RL vs LEVS)?	LEVS will consist of both screen and non-screen activities. Students will receive hard copies of ELA and math consumables for practice activities.
Additional Questions	How can you offer this in person option for elementary if it hasn't been board approved or negotiated with the union?	The Remote to Start/In Person when Viable model is status quo for elementary schools. The Board will be conducting Study Sessions that will include discussions regarding a physical reopening plan based on best practices, and current knowledge of

		safe school openings; San Diego County off the watchlist, what are the next steps; site based health and safety procedures; and student/staff expectations for a safe and healthy return to physical campus.
	Will all 1st grade (remote/in person) be on the same schedule and curriculum? We need assistance as a two parent working full time home and are going to work with some other families. My concern is if we form a pod with another family and the students aren't in the same class, how will this work?	Elementary schools in SMUSD will have the same school hours and all elementary schools use SMUSD district adopted core curriculum in ELA (Benchmark) and Math (Ready Classroom).

Remote Instruction to Start/In Person When Viable: Middle & High School

Topic	Question	Answer
Scheduling	With many juniors taking 5 APs, will you divide them between semesters? With unscheduled periods, when can students add another class to their schedule? When do schedules come out and will counselors add a class then if kids request?	Counselors and Administrators are reviewing schedules and balancing academic load between semesters when possible. Students will be informed on the protocol to request an additional class.
	What about middle school ASB, how will that be handled?	Based on a student's middle school schedule, ASB will be offered in Q1&Q3 or Q2&Q4.
	Middle School: For class electives such as AVID, it's my understanding from the presentation that it will not run through the year but rather 2 of the 4 quarters? Is this correct? Also, if Math were to follow the slide sample of the 3x3 middle school-being 1st and 3rd quarter, how are the skills taught not lost between the missing quarter or will there be remission to catch students who fall below resulting from the missing quarter?	3x3 Mode does not include year long courses. Teachers will use diagnostics in ELA and math to monitor student achievement and learning gaps. Teachers will adjust instruction and supports as needed. Classes in opposite quarters will support the ongoing skill development within their paired courses. For example, History classes will continue to support the literacy skills students use in ELA, and in science courses students use skills developed in math to ensure ongoing practice in numeracy.

	I am concerned about accelerated math for 8th graders. Could you provide more information on how students will maintain math instruction split over two quarters?	Our math teachers will work closely with our Math TOSAs (Teachers on Special Assignment) to ensure appropriate pacing, essential standards, and delivery of instruction in a remote format. In science courses students use skills developed in math to ensure ongoing practice in numeracy.
	High School: If my student gets 3 classes in the first semester and he wants 4, what does he do?	Counselors will be working with individual student needs.
Daily Live Instruction	Is remote schooling four days a week or five days a week? Last semester we only had schooling Tuesday through Friday, which is why I ask. This question applies both to remote instruction and leading edge.	Students in both Remote Instruction/In-Person When Viable and LEVS will have daily live instruction.

[Leading Edge Virtual School \(LEVS\)](#)

LEVS: Elementary School

Topic	Question	Answer
Teachers	Will teachers from my student's home school be teaching their LEVS classes or could their teacher be someone from another school within the district?	Teacher assignments are dependent upon applicants. Yes, your student may be taught by a teacher from another school within the district in the LEVS program; LEVS is its own separate and distinct virtual school.
	As teachers go through a matching exercise for students to next grade levels and assign teachers typically, will there be a similar exercise with LEVS kids or will they all just be grouped based on grade and "home school location"?	We will evaluate staff experience/qualifications and student enrollment, and make matches accordingly. We will to work include cohorts of students from home schools, but this depends upon enrollment and will likely not be exclusively students from one home school per class, as LEVS is a separate and distinct virtual school.
Curriculum	What curriculum will be followed for LEVS students? Is this specific to SMUSD or a standard online learning platform adopted and customized for SMUSD students?	LEVS curriculum is aligned to state standards, A-G requirements and SMUSD course offerings. LEVS will use Google Suite and classroom to implement a project-driven curriculum that centers on skills from Common Core ELA/Math/Literacy Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, CTE

		Standards and VAPA CA Standards. Students will engage with the curriculum to develop a knowledge foundation while developing skills. For instance, through each problem students investigate, they will be required to construct an argument from evidence and critique the reasoning of others.
GATE/Enrichment	My daughter, going into 4th, just qualified for the GATE program. Will LEVS have an equivalent program for GATE students?	GATE is integrated into all classes through differentiation and personalized project based learning. While there will not be a separate GATE class at LEVS, students will participate in individualized extension & enrichment opportunities to challenge students.
	Will LEVS students receive any music instruction?	Not direct instruction, but we will work to include VAPA options on the weekly enrichment menu
Daily Live Instruction	Is remote schooling four days a week or five days a week? Last semester we only had schooling Tuesday through Friday, which is why I ask. This question applies both to remote instruction and leading edge.	Students in both Remote Instruction/In-Person When Viable and LEVS will have daily live instruction.
Flexibility	When looking at the LEVS model, it lists "Traditional school hours (flexibility within those hours)" - Can you share with me what flexibility within those hours mean? As a working parent, flexibility to manage one's time would be ideal. (ie. Can they log into live and then work at their own pace of projects/assignments?)	Yes, while LEVS will mirror our brick and mortar school hours, there will be flexibility within those hours. As in your example, a student will log in for live instruction and can work at their own pace for projects/assignments.
	What will LEVS first two weeks look like (online) vs. Remote? Also, what will be the school hours (from when to when) during the first two weeks of school?	LEVS will hold a virtual orientation (similar to Back to School Night) and will go over the daily structure with you. The first two weeks of school will be half days for all students in SMUSD to allow for additional teacher preparation and collaboration.
Scheduling	Will the student-teacher ratios that were discussed in the webinar apply to both the interim Remote and year-long LEVS tracks?	When the Return to In-Person Instruction has been deemed viable, the district will have a process in place for families to request a transfer to a virtual school option <u>based on space and staffing availability</u> .

LEVS: Middle & High School Questions

Topic	Question	Answer
AP Classes	What AP classes will be available for LEVS students?	AP Seminar AP Research AP English Language AP Government AP Computer Science
	How will they prepare the students for the exam?	Students will prepare for their exam by reading the assigned text, producing and revising the assigned work, developing the skills that are aligned to each AP course and embedded in the LEVS curriculum
	My student has already signed up for AP classes at their home school. Will they be able to take those exact AP Classes at LEVS?	LEVS differs from the comprehensive high school in both its instructional model and size. The size and staff of the comprehensive high school allows for more variety of offerings. LEVS will offer AP courses that are skills-based and fit more seamlessly into an interdisciplinary instructional model.
	When will AP classes start?	August 18th
	AP offerings seem limited, why can't LEVS offer all the AP courses traditional schools do?	LEVS was intentionally designed to be different from a traditional high school with a focus on interdisciplinary problem based curriculum. In this model we cannot offer the variety that a traditional high school offers.
Computers/Materials	Will students and parents still use StudentVUE and ParentVUE to track assignments and grades?	Yes, StudentVue and ParentVue will be available to the LEVS community
	For LEVS MS and HS, are students required to use SMUSD chromebooks?	LEVS students will be required to have a device and internet. Students are able to checkout a chromebook from their home school.
Curriculum	What curriculum will be followed for LEVS students? Is this specific to SMUSD or a standard online learning platform adopted and customized for SMUSD students?	LEVS curriculum is aligned to state standards, A-G requirements and SMUSD course offerings. LEVS will use Google Suite and classroom to implement a project-driven curriculum that centers on skills from Common Core ELA/Math/Literacy Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, CTE Standards and

		VAPA CA Standards. Students will engage with the curriculum to develop a knowledge foundation while developing skills. For instance, through each problem students investigate, they will be required to construct an argument from evidence and critique the reasoning of others.
	How does my student learn all the information if it is interdisciplinary?	Students will continue to receive instruction to ensure their mastery of content and skills from Common Core ELA/Math/Literacy Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, as well as CTE and VAPA standards. An interdisciplinary, problem-based approach allows students to learn and apply standards-based skills to a central problem or theme.
	How can LEVS support Accelerated Math students to ensure that she maintains her advanced Math skills and is placed appropriately in high school?	All SMUSD Math classes are aligned to Common Core Math standards including those at LEVS. Students will engage in not only the content of math but the Standards for Math Practices. These skills and practices spiral and progress in complexity in each discipline. The math skills obtained at LEVS will prepare them for higher level math.
	Will my student be able to continue with AVID this coming year and not risk NOT being able to get into AVID when she attends high school the following year?	AVID will not be offered at LEVS; if a family returns to their traditional site the following year, LEVS personnel will work with families and their schools to help ensure a smooth transition.
	Will my student be able to take the Accelerated CC 8th grade math course in LEVS?	LEVS will offer both Common Core Math grades 6-8 as well as Accelerated Math 7-8.
	Is the curriculum the same for LEVS and Remote instruction/in person model?	Both LEVS and Remote Instruction/In Person use Common Core ELA/Math/Literacy Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, CTE Standards and VAPA CA Standards as the foundation for instruction. Both LEVS and Remote Instruction/In-Person will use a mix of SMUSD core curriculum and supplemental materials in their programs.
	How will electives be handled with LEVS?	Students will have options from CTE Pathways and Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) courses.