

Pacific Grove Middle and High School
Hybrid and Distance Learning Instruction FAQ

What will Covid Hybrid education look like in the secondary programs (MS and HS), and what it isn't

Teaching in a classroom where students must remain socially distanced and not share any materials significantly limits what is possible in the classroom. Essentially, Covid hybrid education will look quite similar to our current distance learning model. Teachers and Students will continue to utilize Google Classroom, and various other technologies as they have all year (Peardeck, Edpuzzle, Google Meets) with the difference being that the on site students will be physically in class with their teacher of record.

The backbone of our instruction in this hybrid model will be a continuation of what has worked in Distance Learning thus far. The difference is that the teacher has the added ability to monitor student learning and engagement in real time. Students learning at home still experience the same access to the curriculum, instruction and teacher that they have currently. There will be no re rostering of students who choose distance learning, and classes will remain intact other than many will be physically in class.

During in-person hybrid learning, students who choose distance learning will not see any significant changes to their instructional program (there will be no re rostering of students who choose distance learning or Hybrid). All students will have access to their teachers and courses. All students (regardless of choosing in-person or continuing with distance learning) will continue to have classes online Tuesday through Friday, depending on their schedule. Therefore, students who choose to stay with distance learning will only see a change in which students are present online with them during a given class on a given day. Each teacher will continue to provide instruction to all students whether in-person or online in a very similar way as is being provided now, with all students on distance learning.

What hybrid learning is “not”: it is not pre-Covid instruction as usual. It does not mean that teachers will be required to compose two lesson plans, one for Distance Learning and one for in person. In fact quite the opposite. Their planning will be largely identical to the way it has been all year, other than slight changes to the duration of classes. This continuity of learning will benefit all students, regardless if they chose in person or online.

What happened with Edmentum or other online services

Edmentum ED Options offers their own teachers for live instruction, and this was the arrangement that PGMS planned to go with for months until very recently. During the last meeting, as we were preparing to build a purchase order for service, we learned from Edmentum that the program does not provide “daily live interaction” for this current arrangement because the students are not starting the semester together. This key detail that was conveyed at our final meeting meant that our students would not receive “daily live interaction”(required by California Education Code) and thus was no longer an option.

At the time we considered implementing the online learning program, students were not identified as distance learning only, given all students were in the distance learning model. Putting students into Edmentum’s online program now would not match the required content areas pacing for our students.

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Students would also not have live interaction with a credentialed teacher nor peer to peer interaction, another state requirement according to ED Code Section 43503.

We needed Edmentum initially to staff with Edmentum staff, but they changed protocol after the semester due to alignment with standards, and would only provide pre-made videos...this goes contrary to Ed Code

Why can't we just start using an online platform at any time during the school year?

Enrolling students in a course outside of the start date of a quarter or semester aligned with an online educational platform (e.g. Edmentum) requires PGUSD content teachers to review the curriculum provided by the platform to determine what curriculum a student must cover for the time he/she is enrolled in distance learning. It would require PGUSD content teachers to continually monitor student progress and make instructional adjustments throughout the time the student is enrolled in the educational platform.

What will an In-person Instructional Model look like?

The schedule for PGHS, PGCHS, PGMS is designed to create as much continuity as possible for all students. The in-person hybrid model will essentially be a continuation of distance learning, but with a majority of the students in the classroom with the teacher delivering the lesson. This model will reduce the need to incorporate new pedagogical practices, technology and/or restructure the curriculum or re-roster classes.

Why can't the secondary schools assign staff to teach their Distance Learning students like the Elementary schools have?

The staffing and credentialing requirements for secondary are quite different from elementary. At elementary schools, teachers have Multiple Subject teaching credentials, which allow teachers to teach all content areas to their students. This means that one "assigned Distance Learning" teacher can teach all core subjects. However, at the secondary level, all teachers must be credentialed to teach in the specific subject (math credentialed teachers can only teach math, for example). This means that a Secondary student doing Distance Learning needs a team of content teachers also teaching Distance Learning only - one for each subject - in order to meet state credentialing requirements.

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Why is the PGHS schedule designed with students transitioning from school and home throughout a given day?

Every aspect of the schedule follows current state and county guidelines regarding safety measures and physical distancing to keep all staff and students safe as we return to in-person instruction. The plan is flexible enough to allow us to shift into and out of a full distance learning program if we are ordered by county officials to do so. The schedule and instructional model is designed to create as much continuity as possible for students and teachers. The schedule creates an equitable learning opportunity for all students (in-person or distance learning). The schedule is designed to give as many students as possible the opportunity to be on campus each day while affording our staff the opportunity to clean in between classes. One of the objectives of the PGHS schedule is to make the disinfection of classrooms a priority. Creating a schedule that has one group of students on campus in the morning and the next group on campus 2 hours later allows our custodial staff the proper amount of time to disinfect each classroom. This schedule keeps our current Distance Learning bell schedule but creates an opportunity for students (A and B Group) who choose In-person Hybrid to be on campus once a day - Tuesday through Friday.