

**PRO-KIDS PROPONENTS AND PARENTS RALLY TO PUT KIDS FIRST**  
*Peaceful Protesters Plea to Expedite In-Person Learning*

San Diego, CA: The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) serves more than 121,000 students ranging from preschool to grade 12 and is the second largest school district in California. District 6 residents are served by two school districts, seven high schools, eight middle schools, and 24 elementary schools. Sadly, on July 13<sup>th</sup>, four months after all schools were shut down due to covid-19, SDUSD announced it would not reopen its campuses for in-person learning during the 2020-21 academic year. Days following the District's announcement, Councilmember Cate issued a [robust proposal](#), including a multitude of solutions for in-person and distance learning.

Two months into the current school year, studies are showing that distance learning is negatively impacting our children on a socioemotional level. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are continuing to stress the importance of allowing children to safely return to in-class learning. In the meantime, families across San Diego are pulling their children out of public schools and enrolling them into private and parochial schools. SDUSD's enrollment is down by more than twenty percent.

"Like many children, my 8-year old daughter was devastated by the closure of schools and the move to distance learning. My happy, school-loving child became angry, depressed, and withdrawn. I enrolled my daughter in a private day camp and she came back to life. She is surrounded by other mask-wearing children and is thriving again. SDUSD's refusal to meet the real educational, emotional, and psychological needs of our children is unconscionable and unacceptable," stated Edward Ewing, Clairemont father.

"There are countless studies, reports, and data showing that students can keep safe if parents choose in-person education for their children. Airplanes are still flying, big box stores are full of shoppers, and businesses are operating. Parents are fed up with the lackluster response from the District. The City is doing its part (opening libraries, park spaces for pods, etc.), and it is time that the school district does theirs," said Councilmember Chris Cate.

**WHERE:** Corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Marauder Way  
San Diego, CA 92126

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 29, 2020; 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

**WHO:** Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6  
[Reopen SDUSD](#) parents and children  
[Parents for Quality Education](#) (PQE)

