

Butte County Waiver Application Cover Form

(for use by a Local Education Agency or equivalent)

Instructions:

Please submit one application for each local educational agency or equivalent. If applying on behalf of a school district please submit one application for elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, please submit an application for each school.

Background Information:

Name of Applicant/District (Local Educational Agency or Equivalent):

Feather River Adventist School

- School Type: Traditional Public School
 Charter School
 Private, Independent, or Faith-Based School

Number of Schools: 1 Enrollment: 20

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: John Linhares, Principal

Address: 1752 Walnut Tree Lane
Address Line 1 & 2

Chico, CA, 95928
City State Zip

Proposed Grades Reopening: TK K 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

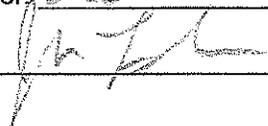
Proposed # of Students per Grade: 0 0 8 2 2 3 3 2

Proposed Reopening Date: August 24, 2020

School Website Link where the Reopening Plan is Posted:
FeatherRiversDA.ORG

Name of Person Completing Application: John Linhares

Phone Number: 530 592 6526 Email: John.Linhares

Signature:  Date: 8-7-20

I. Consultation

Phone number and email for the public to contact the District/School about the waiver:

Phone Number: 530 592 6526 Email: John.Linhart@NCCSDA.com

Please confirm consultation with the following groups and provide a detailed description of the consultation process. Include the Name of Organization(s), Date(s) Consulted, and any relevant information such as meeting minutes or notes. Attach additional documentation if needed.

Labor Organizations

we do not have a labor organization.

School Site Staff

**If no labor organization represents staff at the school, please describe the process for consultation with school staff*

With only 3 staff we discuss school policies and procedures at staff meetings, text, and email. The staff is unanimously in favor of starting school while still on the watch list.

Parent and Community Organizations

Our school serves about a dozen families. I have contacted parents by phone and text regarding state and local guidelines. We accommodate as best we can when parents prefer distanced learning. We have a plan for in-person and distanced learning. About 90% of our community want in-person.

II. **Elementary School Reopening Plans**

Please confirm that elementary school reopening plan(s) addressing following, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local health department, have been published on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent):

Cleaning and Disinfection: How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.

Cohorting: How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear: How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff: How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.

Healthy Hygiene Practices: The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

- Identification and Tracing of Contacts:** Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff, including contact information, to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.
- Physical Distancing:** How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.
- Staff Training and Family Education:** How staff will be trained and families will be educated on the application, enforcement of the plan, and information related to testing and contact tracing requirements.
- Testing of Students and Staff:** How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections in accordance with CDPH guidance.
- Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:** The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.
- Communication Plans:** How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff, parents, and the local health department about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.

Additional Resources:

CDPH and Cal/OSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs
<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/strongertogether.asp>

CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>

Feather River Adventist School

Reopening Proposal

2020-2021

Overview

With recommendations from the Northern California Conference of Seventh Day Adventists and the State of California, we have created a plan for safely opening our school this fall. Furthermore, we have class sizes under ten students which will make social distancing feasible. Our school is located in a rural region of the county which allows us a fair amount of isolation from neighboring businesses and homes.

We will attempt to meet the following criterion as requested by our state and local health officials:

1. General measures

- We will continue to review county and state measures as they are announced in response to COVID 19 pandemic. Our employer, the Northern California Conference, keeps principals updated on the latest information from the state.
- When a student has been identified as "at-risk", one of our staff will communicate with the parents to create a collaborative plan to reduce the student risk. This could include increased monitoring of student health factors, increased social distance, providing hybrid in-person/distance education, or temporarily providing individual distance education. These possibilities have to be practical when taking in consideration teacher time and energy. Our staff need to be protected too.

2. Promote healthy hygiene practices

- Our classrooms will be set up to make hand washing and hand sanitization practical. They are ready furnished with a sink and paper towels where students can wash their hands. This will reduce the need to congregate in the bathrooms while hand washing. We will include ethyl-based hand sanitizer on our list of classroom supplies for students ages 10 and up. For younger students, the teacher will have appropriate hand sanitizer available for students to use under her supervision. At the beginning of the year, teachers will train students in proper hand washing and hand sanitization techniques. We will have soap, no-touch trash cans, and tissues available like we usually do. Posters will be put up in the classrooms to remind staff and students of these practices.
- Our teachers will be encouraged to create and teach hand washing routines before and after eating and after being outside. They will teach students to wash their hands after sneezing or coughing as well as before and after using the bathroom.
- We will put up signs promoting the use of face coverings. On our school supplies list, we will include cloth masks. We will keep some disposable masks on hand for students and staff who don't have a cloth mask or face shield available. Office

workers will be provided with disposable gloves. We don't have a cafeteria. We also don't have buses.

- Our parents will receive a school supplies list, requesting that they supply their child with individual tissues that they can keep at their desk.

3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation.

- Our classroom drinking fountains will be covered over to prevent repeated touching of surfaces.
- Staff will be encouraged to provide for the cleaning and disinfecting of the frequently touched surfaces in the room in which they work. These surfaces would include things like door handles, light switches, counters, sink handles, teacher and office desks, tables, student desks, and chairs.
- Classroom teachers will be encouraged to coordinate use of play structures and play equipment in order to limit shared contact with surfaces.
- Disinfectants will be provided for supervisory staff to use on play structures and equipment.
- Our office and custodial staff will be provided with a copy of the CDE guidelines for cleaning supplies so they can order supplies that meet the appropriate needs. Our custodian will be asked to oversee the creation of a cleaning schedule.
- In general, cleaning supplies are kept in the janitor's closet. However, each room will have supplies for that room. These will be under the supervision of the staff in that room.
- Staff will be encouraged to open their windows when practical and to air out the space after daily cleaning.

4. Implementing distancing inside and outside the classroom

- As a small school, we don't have many families. We currently have fewer than 15. We will put markers on the walkway for standing locations to promote social distancing.
- As a small school, we are already setup to have 10-15 students in a classroom.
- Teachers will be encouraged to organize their classrooms in such a way as to maximize distancing and reduce face to face contact as much as is practical. They will be offered resources such as floor markings and partitions to assist in their classroom organization. Teachers will be encouraged to think about how their play spaces can be structured to promote distancing. Teaching staff will brainstorm ways to reduce contact while turning in assignments, minimize contact in shared non-classroom spaces, reduce in-person classroom visits by volunteers and other as much as practical.
- Teachers will be encouraged to organize their usage of non-classroom spaces (such as the kitchen, the music room, and the gym) in such a way that classes are not in a shared location at the same time. When the weather is suitable, students can eat outdoors.

5. Limit sharing

- Teachers will ask students to place their belongings in or at their desk. They will be asked to think about how to minimize sharing of high-touch materials and how they can disinfect items that need to be shared

6. Train all staff and educate families

- We will dedicate time at staff meetings to train staff enhanced cleaning, physical distancing, face coverings, and screening practices, and Covid-19 symptoms. Staff meetings will Typically have 3 participants.
- We will send parents an educational letter about enhanced cleaning, physical distancing, face coverings, and screening practices, and Covid-19 symptoms.

7. Check for signs and symptoms

- We will dedicate time at staff meeting to discuss strategies to prevent discrimination against people with Covid-19.
- We will include in our parent letter our stance that people with Covid-19 should be treated with respect and compassion.
- A designated staff member will screen staff and students as they arrive. We already have a no-touch thermometer. If a student doesn't pass the checks, they will be sent back with the parent/caregiver who brought them. Staff and parents will be informed of screening practices at the beginning of the school year by staff meeting and parent letter. Teachers will be informed that our policy is not penalizing students for missed work due to Covid-19. Students may demonstrate competency at a different time or in a different way. Or they may be excused from that assignment altogether as needed.

8. Plan for when a staff member, visitor, or child becomes sick

- The best option, of course, is for staff, students, and visitors to self-quarantine if they have symptoms of Covid-19. We will encourage this possibility through parent education, student education, and providing stay-at-home options for learning and instruction while students and/or staff are quantifying.
- The next best option is to catch a person during their screening in the morning before they are allowed to enter. With this option, the person can most likely go straight back home since we do not bus students to school.
- Of course, it is possible for staff or students to acquire symptoms while there. If that happens, or if the person cannot immediately return home, the potentially sick person will wait in an isolation area until he or she can be transported home or to a healthcare facility. If possible, the isolation area will be left vacant for 24 hour before being disinfected, the area will remain unused until it is disinfected.
- If the school is informed that a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, we will notify appropriate parties immediately while maintaining privacy as required.

- Families will be informed how students can continue education via distance learning while in quarantine. Families will receive instructions to stay home until they have met the current CDC criteria for isolation.

9. Maintaining Healthy Operations

- We will monitor staff absenteeism, and we will ensure that other staff are available to fulfill the duties of staff members who are absent.
- We will monitor the types of illnesses and symptoms among our students and staff and address them as deemed appropriate.
- We will maintain communication that allow staff and families to self-report symptoms and receive prompt notifications regarding exposures and closures. We will do this in a way that maintains confidentiality as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.
- We will support students who are at higher risk for severe illness or who cannot safely distance from household contacts at higher risk, by providing distance learning opportunities.

10. Plans for Partial or Total Closures

- We will monitor communications from state and local authorities regarding COVID-19 transmission and/or closures in our area, and we will adjust operations as deemed appropriate,
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the school, we will implement the following steps:
- In consultation with the local public health department, the school principal will decide whether school closure is warranted (including the length of time necessary).
- We will maintain regular communications with the local public health department.
- All areas of the school visited by the COVID-19 positive individual will be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection.
- We will advise those who have been in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual to isolate at home.
- We will implement communication plans for school closure to include outreach to students, parents, staff members and families.
- We will provide guidance to students, staff members, and families regarding the importance of physical distancing measures while the school is closed (including discouraging gathering elsewhere).
- In order to maintain continuity of education, we will implement one of the three instruction strategies:

Instruction Strategies:

1. Conventional Instruction: If it is determined that school closure is not warranted, teachers will continue providing “in-person” instruction at school.
2. Adaptive Instruction: If it is determined that some students need to isolate at home while others attend school, teachers will provide “in-person” instruction at school to students who are able to safely attend school, and will use distance instruction platforms and strategies to make instruction available to students who, due to COVID-19, are not able to attend school.
3. Distance Instruction: If it is determined that the entire school needs to close due to COVID-19, teachers will use distance instruction platforms and strategies to instruct students while they isolate at home.

Letter from a parent of a first grader enrolled at our school:

What damage have we done? I am speaking of the damage we are causing our children by keeping schools closed. There is no fault to be laid for those who made and supported it for it was not done out of malice but out of an abundance of caution. As a Doctor of Pharmacy and a parent of a child at Feather River Adventist School I pray we do not continue down that road again.

There is a lot of uncertainty regarding COVID19 and even more misinformation. One thing is certain, it is real and it should not be ignored. We need to resign ourselves to the fact that we cannot stop it; at least not right now. We do however, need to ensure the protection of populations that are most vulnerable: those with pre-existing conditions and the elderly. Our children are not part of that group. We don't know why, and we may never know why, but this disease does not seem to affect the young and healthy.

What does affect our children is what we are doing to them. The isolation from their peers, the lack of Christian fellowship, the stunted learning during the most influential time of their development, the depression and anxiety they are feeling, these are the dangers our children are exposed to. The CDC, the Surgeon General's Office, and even Dr. Fauci at the National Institute of Health all agree it is safe for our children to return to school with the proper precautions. Furthermore, from doctors to psychologists, all are crying of the damage we are causing our children by this isolation and lack of education.

Let us not fail our children. Open the schools. Take back our future.

Michelle "Miki" Connell
Doctor of Pharmacy, Pharm.D

Hi, my name is Mai Xiong. I am a parent of three children that attended Feather River Adventist School last year (2019 -2020). My reason for the children to return to in classroom learning is that I've been teaching my children at home during the pandemic school closures and it's a lot of work and stress for me with very little results from the children. I feel that with a weaker academic background already, my son, Nigel did not do well with distance learning. He really struggled with motivating himself to do the work on his own. I feel that in person training provides more hands on experience and also talking to another person face to face usually provides greater clarity and understanding for them then communicating through technology. I feel that all my children will do best with that one on one teaching and hands on learning in a classroom environment. I support in person learning.

Mai Xiong 8/6/2020

August 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the opening of the 2020-2021 Educational School year and the importance of letting students meet in a classroom at Feather River Adventist School. This is a small private school of approximately 20 students representing about 13 families. There are three teachers (the principal and two part time) and a school secretary. I am one of the part time teachers.

We have been following the CA state and CDC guidelines since our school system was closed last March just before Spring Break and completed teaching students via the internet. We have also been educated for dealing with hygiene in the classroom (physical distancing, face coverings, hand washing, sterilizing contact areas in the classrooms, etc.) We feel the students need to have contact with each other for their mental and educational health. Parents are also being educated with reopening proposals and how to keep everyone safe and at low risk.

It is my hope that we will be given a waiver for our school to teach in small groups while following CA state and CDC guidelines.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Martella

esignature

Mrs. Linda Martella
Feather River Adventist School
27 Cox Lane
Oroville, CA 95965
Grades 1-4, Science, Religion, Social Studies

8-12-20

Casey,

Here is the supporting documentation for section I, School Site Staff.

The faculty have been presented with having in-person school for the 2020-2021 school year and are in support of this decision:

John Linhares, Principal and 3-8 teacher

Linda Martella, Gr 1-4

Rick Rincon, Gr 1-2

Gigi DeAnda, Secretary/ Aide

 8-12-20

Linda Martella 8-12-20

Rick Rincon 8-12-20

Margano DeAnda 8-12-20