



**For Immediate Release: December 19, 2020**

Contact: Susan Solomon: (415) 205-4323, [ssolomon@uesf.org](mailto:ssolomon@uesf.org)  
Kim Tavaglione: (415) 740-4461, [kim@sflaborcouncil.org](mailto:kim@sflaborcouncil.org)

**Statement from the Unions of the San Francisco Unified School District  
on Safe Reopening of Schools**

San Francisco, CA – Like the rest of our state and nation, San Francisco is in the midst of an unprecedented public health emergency, as Covid-19 cases rise and hospitals become overcrowded. Just as so many working people have done throughout this city, SF Unified School District employees have called on our schools to implement the necessary health and safety measures to keep our students, teachers, school staff, and families safe.

We have been asking for many of these safety measures to be implemented for months as workers continue to work in person to provide resources to families and maintenance to school sites. We remain eager to find a path toward a safe reopening. Unfortunately, the District has not provided the opportunity to fully engage in discussion and instead blames District workers for the delay.

No one wants a return to the classroom more than the educators and support staff who have continued to serve students and families since shelter in place. But this uncontrolled pandemic threatens our entire community and we take our responsibility to protect our students and our co-workers seriously. The coronavirus has not impacted all San Franciscans equally. Black, Latino, and Asian families have been hardest hit and children of color have suffered from the most serious forms of the illness. We stand with parents in communities of color who want assurances of safety before schools are reopened.

This pandemic is too serious to play politics. Since the beginning, SFUSD set an example by closing down ahead of state mandates and, in doing so, it saved thousands of lives. Now is the time for SFUSD to continue this kind of leadership. We all want to reopen but we cannot do so in the midst of uncontrolled community spread. In fact, school districts around the Bay Area have determined that schools cannot safely reopen while in the purple tier.

We will continue to work with the District, our parents, our students, and our community to push for a safe reopening that addresses the multiple hardships our San Francisco families have all faced this year. Hope is on the horizon and we all look forward to being back to school in person with the kids we love.

###