



STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR OPEN SCHOOLS CALIFORNIA

"California sacrificed the health and well being of its adolescents and teens with prolonged school closures that helped drive an unprecedented spike in depression, suicide ideation and self harm. We must ensure public health policies are in place that protect students and their families, especially when crisis strikes." said Dr. Jeanne Noble, Department of Emergency Medicine, Director of COVID Response, UCSF.

"School districts have a once in a lifetime opportunity to reimagine what schools look like when we come back in the fall. And they have the dollars to make innovative things happen for students and families. When these decisions are being made, families' voices and priorities need to be centered and prioritized." Jumoke Hinton-Hodge, former Oakland School Board Director.

"We cannot rewind the clock on this year, but we have an obligation to do better going forward for 6 million children in public school in California. We need real accountability for all the stakeholders who failed children this year and OpenSchoolsCA intends to provide that through running parents for school boards and allowing parents to effectively advocate for student and families' best interest." David Castillo, and El Cajon parent, former teacher and principal in Oakland.

"The mental and physical health of children across California has deteriorated as the months of school closures have dragged on. Children are the most vulnerable in our society, and we need to prioritize their needs the next time disaster strikes." Dr. Alice Kuo, Chief of Medicine-Pediatrics at UCLA and Executive Board Member of the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"We believe that the promise of an equitable education, especially for Black, Brown and underserved students will not be fulfilled until families are at the table in policy decisions. We stand unequivocally with organizations like #OpenSchools who center on building family voice and power in education." Kimi Kean, Co-Founder and CEO, Families in Action.

"Our most precious constituency, our kids, must always be the state's top priority. Children Now stands with OpenSchoolsCA and the students who need safe in-person learning and support during the coming school year and beyond." Ted Lempert, President, Children Now.

"It is exciting to partner with grassroots groups like Open Schools CA to seize this moment and empower parents with a seat at the table to advocate for the interests of all children." Ben Austin, Executive Director, Kids Coalition.

"Here in San Francisco, our school board failed our families and students. Despite low COVID rates and vaccinated teachers, half our children did not go back to school this year. Families with means are fleeing the district, and those without are falling behind. It is time for every school board to put students first. We support OSC." Autumn Looijen & Siva Raj, co-leads, Recall SF School Board.

"As a West Contra Costa volunteer parent advocate for my teenage daughter and a lifelong full time California policy advocate for children, I strongly support OpenSchoolsCA mission to tap parent power for a meaningful leap forward for California's kids." Jennifer Peck, West Contra Costa County School District Parent.

"As the mother of two teenagers, I support a statewide parent movement to ensure that when crisis strikes again (fire season, flu season), my sons and I will not be locked out of the public schools we rely on for so much more than academics." Pat Reilly, Berkeley Unified School District Parent.

"The burden we have placed on students this year have been utterly unfair; adult stakeholders have been prioritized to the great detriment to the academic and mental health conditions of children. We need more parents in positions of power and in the rooms where decisions are made to make sure this is the last time our kids are put last." Ross Novie, founder The LA School Uprising.