



## Bakersfield City School District

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**Board of Education**  
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Dr. Fred L. Haynes, Clerk Pro-tem  
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August 12, 2020

Dear BCSD Community,

The Bakersfield City School District regrets to announce a delay to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. This is a devastating blow to the District and all who have worked tirelessly to prepare for the upcoming school year. We know this will also be upsetting for our students who were looking forward to the start of a new school year, as well as our parents and staff who will now have to accommodate this change.

BCSD was fully prepared to begin the school year in a virtual format on August 17, 2020, but a delivery timeline for internet hotspot devices was not met by a well-known internet provider. In an agreement with the provider, the District was to receive 30,000 hotspots in deliveries of 5,000 per day August 10-17. The District has received roughly 5,000 of the agreed upon devices. Our outreach efforts revealed approximately 15,000 of our students need hotspot devices. As BCSD is committed to ensuring equity, to make sure every student has the support they need to be successful, we cannot proceed with our current return to school schedule as we know there are students who will not be able to login on the first day of school without a hotspot.

In conversations with the provider, we understand the company will be able to fulfill a majority of our agreement by Friday, August 14. Virtual orientations and the first day of school will be moved to accommodate a hotspot distribution schedule. Devices will be distributed August 17-20 at your child's school site. School sites will communicate additional information with parents through ParentSquare and social media. If you do not have access to ParentSquare or social media, please contact your child's school. Virtual orientations will be held on Friday, August 21, 2020. The new school year will begin on Monday, August 24, 2020.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we work through this very challenging time. This unanticipated delay may cause complications as we prepare to begin school, but be assured this will not impact our mission to educate all students at the highest levels of academic excellence. BCSD will "Rise to the Challenge" and we hope you will rise with us.

Sincerely,

Doc Ervin,  
Superintendent  
Bakersfield City School District