



ICYMI: Parents, Students and Community Leaders Across California Rallied This Weekend to Mark the One Year Out of Classrooms

Parents and Leaders Again Urge Governor Newsom to Take Swift, Executive Action to Reopen California Schools

OAKLAND, CA – March 17, 2021 – In cities across California, parents, students, and community leaders marched and rallied to mark the one year anniversary of California classrooms being closed this past weekend. For one year, 6 million public school students have been locked out of their schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic – making [California the last state](#) in the country to return children to their classrooms.

Parents hosted “Zoom-ins” and held rallies and marches up and down the state, including events in Albany, [Berkeley](#), [Los Angeles](#), [Oakland](#), Richmond, Sacramento, [San Diego](#) and [Walnut Creek](#).

Despite the much ballyhooed SB 86, and in districts with and without reopening plans alike, the sentiment was clear: more must be done by Governor Newsom to get all California students back into their classrooms this school year. Just recently another west coast progressive governor, Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington, [took executive action](#) to mandate the return of students to classrooms by next month -- leaving Governor Newsom as the lone west coast governor not to act.

“We will not be silenced until more action is taken to return ALL California children to their classrooms this semester,” said Ernesto Falcon, a parent advocate with OpenSchoolsCA and parent of a student in El Cerrito. “The state has provided vaccines. The state has provided funding. The science around how to safely return kids to school is clear. And despite all this, and press statements to the contrary, millions of California children are in zoom school now and will be for the foreseeable future. Please join your fellow progressive governors and mandate the reopening of schools now.”

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OpenSchoolsCA

OpenSchoolsCA is a group of parents from across California who are committed to public education and believe their children should have access to safe, in-person education.

OpenSchoolsCA believes in following the science—and the consensus by public health experts and medical and mental health professionals—which all tell us schools can be safely reopened with measures in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at www.OpenSchoolsCA.com

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