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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Schools could offer hybrid model for reopening

As a psychotherapist in San Francisco who works with families in both the public and private sectors, I note that about half the students I talk with want to go back to in-person instruction — and half don't. I suspect that the same may be true of teachers, especially before all who want to be vaccinated.

Some students, like many with autism, seem to desperately need more structured in-person care and multifaceted attention. Some others are preferring the quietude and lack of distraction they experience from learning remotely from their homes.

Why not begin the reopening of schools with a hybrid model that could accommodate on-site those who need and want that, and allow those not ready to return to continue their schooling from home? That way the schools would be more sparsely populated and safer.

To reopen in one fell swoop risks the danger of having to close back up when possible (probable!) outbreaks happen, as has been the case in some independent schools that have already opened — and closed — and reopened again. I think a slow and careful reopening process has the best chance of ultimate success.

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