

COVID-19 Operations Written Report for Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone	Date of Adoption
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Descriptions provided should include sufficient detail yet be sufficiently succinct to promote a broader understanding of the changes your LEA has put in place. LEAs are strongly encouraged to provide descriptions that do not exceed 300 words.

Provide an overview explaining the changes to program offerings that the LEA has made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency and the major impacts of the closures on students and families.

Prior to the Santa Cruz Countywide school closures that commenced on March 16, 2020, the Santa Cruz County Court and Community School teachers prepared a minimum of two weeks of coursework for all students in anticipation of a potential closure. We are thankful for the countywide leadership of all district Superintendents and the Santa Cruz COE Superintendent Dr. Sabbah who decided early in this crisis to work collectively and make decisions as a county. Families in our COE Court and Community Schools, along with families across the county receive the same weekly communication from the team of Superintendents. Additionally, teachers and site staff communicated directly with all students and families. Prior to the March 16th school closures all instructors completed a Distance Learning Plan spreadsheet which included their temporary distance learning plans, student information, and if the student needed any technology to complete distance learning. As the situation evolved and it became clear that this would not be a temporary situation we planned and implemented a three phased distance learning plan that involved supporting technology needs of students, supporting teachers through the transition to distance learning, focusing on student and family engagement, nutrition support, social-emotional support, continuing support for students with special needs, and continuing academic progress. The Santa Cruz COE Board has been continuously updated by the Superintendent. Our department is working closely with our local SELPA leadership and our internal resource teachers meet weekly to discuss the progress of special education students. We have planned and implemented grading and credit guidelines that hold students harmless and we have planned unique graduation celebrations approved by the Health Department. Weekly, Administrators meet with all staff to discuss student and program progress.

Provide a description of how the LEA is meeting the needs of its English learners, foster youth and low-income students.

The Santa Cruz COE Court and Community Schools ensure communication is made available in the home language of the family. All communication from the Superintendent is made available in English and Spanish. Teachers utilize a myriad of translation services to communicate with families and our multilingual colleagues reach out to the families of our English learners. Students who are English learners continue to be provided with ELD curriculum and support from their teachers. Our department works closely with our Foster Youth Liaisons who support our foster youth students. Administrators meet weekly with teachers and discuss the progress and supports for all students, especially our foster youth students. Foster Youth Liaisons meet with teachers and administrators regarding students on their

caseloads. Across Santa Cruz County socioeconomically disadvantaged students and their families have access to school lunches Monday-Friday and our local food bank has been offering expanded locations for food pick up throughout the county. All students have access to social-emotional support through virtual check-ins with counselors. The Santa Cruz COE has created an interactive food distribution map that the public, along with our colleagues, can reference.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities.

We are extremely proud of our dedicated educators who were thrust into distance learning. Our team participated in extensive professional learning through webinars, group professional learning, and individual coaching to transition their curriculum and instruction practices. Our educators were encouraged to utilize technology when possible such as Google Classroom, however, we understand that distance learning is a continuum that encompasses both educators and students who are at different comfort levels with regard to utilizing technology. Our dedicated staff distribute technology Monday-Friday. All students who need a computer have been loaned a Chromebook. Our local internet service providers have offered temporary free internet service to families who qualify. The Santa Cruz COE purchased new Chromebooks and hot spots that were deployed to families who were not able to access the free internet services and still needed internet access at home. Our teachers have gone to great lengths to personalize each student's educational experience. Teachers have phone and virtual meetings with students individually and group sessions when appropriate. Students have virtual tutoring sessions with teachers and instructional support staff. Additionally, teachers, counselors, and college and career counselors, have virtual meetings that focus on supporting the social-emotional and personal growth of students. Students work virtually with our college and career team to enroll in courses at our local community college. Resource teachers connect with each student on their caseload and support them through their work and connect with teachers and administration on their progress. Student IEP meetings continue virtually to ensure student supports are being continued to the extent possible. Our probation department meets regularly to discuss the progress of students on probation and students at our juvenile hall facility experience virtual learning and support from their teacher and instructional support staff.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to provide school meals while maintaining social distancing practices.

The Santa Cruz COE has provided school lunches Monday-Friday throughout the school closures. Our amazing and dedicated staff are trained in how to safely provide school lunches and they are provided with protective gear. We distribute meals through curbside pick-up and grab and go. Initially we had food service locations throughout the county and we streamlined our lunch service based upon demand. When the schools initially closed we had signs posted at all campuses and families were notified of food service locations through email and phone calls. We continuously update the list of food service locations through the Santa Cruz COE interactive food map which locates free meal services throughout the county. Teachers and support staff are in constant communication with families to ensure families are aware and have access to the food resources available county-wide. Parents, guardians, and students are able to pick up school lunches and there is no requirement that the student must be with the parent. We promote the food offerings from our local food banks which occur frequently throughout the county. We have distributed flyers with the food bank information, including locations and times families can pick up food. Our entire community has come together to support families and their nutritional needs.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

Internally, our teachers, counselors, and support staff have been checking in with all of our students. We have developed an engagement system to track teacher connections with students so that we can leverage all support agencies when needed. Our Court and Community School administrators meet weekly with teachers and support staff to discuss student engagement and coordination of support services. Teachers and administrators stay connected with our probation department to coordinate services and support students on probation. The Santa Cruz COE has worked hard to promote student support services as well as available childcare services. Our Santa Cruz COE Student Services Department provides and promotes parent support groups during school closures. Our Child Development Resource Center provides information on all childcare offerings for essential workers. The Santa Cruz COE has provided a network of support for childcare providers during this time and has created an extensive campaign to ensure all districts are aware and push out information regarding childcare availability. The Santa Cruz COE works closely with the Santa Cruz County Health Service Agency and provides the most current information to all employees. The Santa Cruz COE has a COVID-19 web page on our COE website that is continuously updated with resources. Our county Superintendent has a weekly meeting with all COE staff to discuss updates and promote resources available, especially those that support the supervision of students and support of families.