My heartfelt gratitude goes out to LA County's amazing education community for all you are doing to support our students, staff and families during this national health emergency.

Let's not forget to take care of ourselves in addition to others. Limit time reading and watching the news. Eat healthily. Stay hydrated. Meditate. Do what you need to do to relieve stress.

Our update today contains important information regarding Special Education and concerns related to cybersecurity — in addition to a number of other topics.

Stay safe and connected.

Health & Safety

- "Safer at Home" FAQ from the LA County Dept. of Public Health -[click here]
- Revised Public Health Order issued March 21 -[click here]
- Public Health telebriefing for schools: Wednesday, March 25, 2:30-3:30 pm. Call: 844-291-5491; Access Code 9602958

Assessment & Accountability

**College Board Updates:** On March 20, the College Board released the following updates regarding SAT and the Advanced Placement Programs:

**SAT:**
- Exams, including makeups, are cancelled though May 2

**AP:**
- Free online instructional resources are available for students.
- Exams will be online (no face-to-face option this year); 45-minute, free-response exams designed for students to take from home.
- Amount of required content has been reduced for many courses.
- Two different exam dates will be made available to accommodate students who want to take the test earlier while information learned in school is still fresh.
- Anyone who has already paid for an exam may cancel for a full refund.
- Course-specific information [here](#).
- Next update: April 3

**Statewide Testing:** Updates and clarifications provided by the CDE on March 20:
- All CAASPP testing and the Summative ELPAC are suspended for this year.
- The Physical Fitness Test is on hold until students return to school.
- The California High School Proficiency Examination test administration for March 21 was cancelled. All March test takers have been reregistered for June or provided information on how to request a refund.
- The timeline of the initial ELPAC exam has been extended for 45 days for newly enrolled English Learners.

**LCAP:** County offices in discussion with CDE around flexibility in timelines. CDE states to be careful not to undermine stakeholder involvement. Any changes would require legislation.
Federal Program Monitoring: At this time, there are no plans to cancel any reviews; however, all onsite reviews for March and April have been switched to online reviews. LEAs have been given extensions ranging from 1-4 weeks, based on individual circumstances.

Graduation: No official updates from CDE at this time. LEAs may consider adoption of the state minimum graduation requirements. Consider how seniors who are behind in credits can use this time to make up coursework.

2019-20 CALPADS:
- CDE has extended certification deadline for the Fall 2 submission from March 20 to April 24. Upcoming end-of-year submissions: CDE fully aware of COVID-19 impact on any data collected and submitted for state and federal reporting and accountability. CDE in communication with U.S. Department of Education, Governor’s Office and State Board of Education regarding these impacts and expects new guidance forthcoming. CDE will keep LEAs informed as information becomes available. Send question to CALPADS/CBEDS/CDS Operations Office: 916-324-6738 or calpads@cde.ca.gov.

Child Care

Districts should contact the California Department of Social Services-Community Care Licensing Office for guidance on providing child care and meeting health and safety standards. CCLD can be reached at:
- Monterey Park Regional Office: 323-981-3350
- El Segundo Regional Office: 424-301-3077

The LA County Department of Public Health-Office of the Advancement of Early Childhood Education will partner with LACOE to provide early childhood education resources around continuity of learning. The department also has specific guidance on addressing COVID 19 in child care facilities. Call (213) 240-8144 or email njimenez@ph.lacounty.gov.

Facilities & Maintenance

- Free webinar, March 26, 11am-12:15pm: Confronting the Coronavirus at School: Cleaning, Preparation & Maintenance – Coalition for Adequate School Housing. Register here.

Governance

- Gov. Newsom has issued two orders on the Brown Act. The most recent, Executive Order N29-20, suspends the requirement to have a single place where the public can observe and comment if a board provides a manner by which the meeting can be observed and public comment received telephonically. Live streaming with the ability to comment via telephone would meet this requirement. Boards must take care to address ADA complaints or issues promptly. Public notice in the form of posted agendas must also include the information regarding how to observe and provide comment. See section 3 of the Executive Order.

Nutrition/Meal Services

- CDE COVID-19 Guidance for School Meals - click here
- CDE Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin re: Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures - click here
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service Response to COVID-19 - click here
- LunchAssist resources for serving meals during COVID-19 school closures - click here
- DPSS services, including CalFresh - click here

Special Education

A March 21 update from the federal Office for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services makes many of the same recommendations from CDE received on March 18.

LEAs should provide educational and support services commensurate with those identified in students’ IEPs to the best of their ability. CDE and OSERS recognize that LEAs will need to adjust their service
Many accommodations and modifications can be provided for online delivery, such as extensions of time for assignments, captioning and watching recorded lessons. Some students may need an audio version of a book. Some students may need to be pre-taught before being presented with a lesson from the general education teacher, then re-taught by the special education teacher via phone or video. For students for whom distance learning is not appropriate, instruction through packets and worksheets with explicit direction may be needed. One thing to remember, this is not an “either or” situation: depending on students’ needs, distance learning may be appropriate in some situations and not in others.

OSERS and CDE encourage teachers to collaborate with each other, parents and administrators to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

The COVID-19 national emergency has changed the way LEAs can provide FAPE to consider the health and safety of students and service providers. When school resumes, IEP teams will need to determine to what extent compensatory services will need to be provided.

Some timelines may be extended, although not waived. OSERS encourages LEAs, “to work with parents to reach mutually agreeable extension of time, as appropriate." Parents and IEP teams may agree to conduct IEP meetings through video or phone calls.

The OSER Supplemental Fact Sheet warns LEAs against taking no action during school closures out of fear of being unable to serve students with disabilities. They further state that "schools should not opt to close or decline to provide distance instruction, at the expense of students, to address matters pertaining to services for students with disabilities."

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**Technology & Cybersecurity**

Please be alert to cyberthreats related to COVID-19:

- A malicious website (corona-virus-map[dot]com) looks similar to a legitimate site from Johns Hopkins showing worldwide COVID-19 cases. The malicious website hosts a map of COVID-19 cases but actually contains a virus that will steal information, including sensitive data.

- The FBI is warning citizens to be wary of malicious websites and apps pretending to track COVID-19 cases worldwide. Criminals are using malicious websites and apps to infect and lock devices until payment is received.

- Report phishing attacks and scams and attempted scams [here](#)

- A malicious Android app that pretends to be a “Coronavirus Tracking App” is actually ransomware that will infect the phone and lock it until payment is received. The malicious app is downloaded at (coronavirusapp[.]site).

- Beware of hackers posing as CDC or WHO representatives in phishing attacks. To strengthen cybersecurity, please note the anti-phishing tips and advice from the Federal Trade Commission [found here](#). Note that LACOE is blocking the url and implementing a rule to block our emails that may contain the url.

- Be cautious of anyone selling products that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose or cure COVID-19. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission issued a warning regarding seven companies selling fraudulent COVID-19 products. [Learn more here](#).

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**Resources for Districts & Schools**

[Covid-19 LACOE Curriculum & Instructional Services open educational resources](#)

[Assisting Students in Foster Care and their Support Team During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Association of California School Administrators COVID-19 resource hub](#)
COVID-19 EDUCATION RESPONSE FUND

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Greater LA Education Foundation (Greater LA) is coordinating community, business and philanthropic resources in support of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the immediate and ever-changing needs of school districts.

Greater LA has established the COVID-19 Education Response Fund to receive immediate dollars to help support the urgent needs of local school districts and families in the current national health emergency.

Contributions to the fund can be made at calfund.org/greaterla.