A time for patience, kindness and compassion

In her latest video message, Supt. Debra Duardo shares her perspective on the extraordinary efforts of LA County educators and partners to ensure that instruction continues, children are fed and the needs of families are met. She urges everyone to stay safe and follow social distancing directives.

Watch the video (2:30)

Public Health Update

New documents from LA County Dept. of Public Health:

- Guidelines for Social Distancing (3.24.20) - (English only): Strongly emphasizes need for social distancing and to minimize interaction with persons not part of your household. Click here

- Frequently Asked Questions: Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) (3.24.20) - (English only). Click here

Attendance Accounting

- ADA used for both the second period and the annual period apportionment includes all full school months from July 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020.

- In lieu of the Form J-13A, an LEA that closed school in response to COVID-19 must submit to the CDE the Certification Form for COVID-19 Closure (COVID-19 Closure Form is still being developed).

- To the extent an LEA has a material loss of attendance due to students with COVID-19 symptoms or quarantine prior to the end of February 29, 2020, email CDE for additional guidance at attendanceaccounting@cde.ca.gov.

- CDE FAQs on COVID-19 and Attendance Accounting available here.

Child Care

- LACOE is part of countywide effort working to address child care for health care workers and first responders. Keesha Woods represents LACOE and has been in communication with key leaders in LA County’s early education/child care field.

- Being considered is a partnership to develop one forum for instructional staff, first responders and families to easily navigate countywide information and strategies to support children from birth to five years years of age.

- Partners include LA County Department of Public Health–Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, First 5 LA, LAUSD, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, LACOE and county resources and referral agencies. Future partners may include the office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, LA
Curriculum & Instruction

Check out new and revised tools on LACOE’s Open Educational Resources web site. They include:

**PBS-LACOE Toolkit**

- LACOE has partnered with the Public Broadcasting Service to create toolkit for all LA County districts and schools to have access to preK-12 resources. Goal is to help bridge the digital divide during unprecedented public health emergency, ensuring all students have access to continued free educational resources at home during school closures that adhere to the state curriculum.
- The PBS-LACOE Toolkit provides curated lessons, learning goals and connection reflections to accompany their educational programs.
- View the toolkit [here](#).

**Online Professional Development**

- Free self-paced modules can be found on the OER homepage
- 100% online, completely self-paced, no moderators
- Content includes arts integration & social emotional learning, STEAM, Universal Design for Learning

**Free TeachStar Online Academy Moderated Courses**

- Professional development courses facilitated by trained online moderators who support and guide each participant, modeling effective online teaching strategies and techniques.
- The $200 registration fee will be waived for 300 participants. Interested participants can begin enrolling now for the next TeachStar Online Academy that starts on April 10.
- Information and registration [here](#).

Disaster Service Workers

- Following California law, all public school district and charter school employees are considered disaster service workers to be called on to protect residents and property during emergencies.
- Los Angeles USD provides an FAQ for employees on disaster service workers and critical emergency planning [here](#).

Facilities & Maintenance

- The Coalition for Adequate School Housing offers guidance on Gov. Gavin Newsom’s stay-at-home executive order and its impact on school construction projects. Read the guidance from CASH [here](#).

Foster Youth

- LACOE Foster Youth Service Technical Assistance Program working with CDE to gather data on distance learning needs of students in foster care. A survey to district foster youth liaisons was sent to assess needs of students for school supplies or access to technology. This will help to determine how many students need supplies and needed funding.
- LACOE Foster Youth Services continues to offer and provide online tutoring services to youth residing in foster care.
- iFoster is helping current/former foster youth with smartphones/hot spots and laptops — [click here]
- One Simple Wish is offering help with laptops, among other resources — [click here]
- LACOE Foster Youth Services website offers resource guide for youth residing in foster care and their families.

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**Legislative Update**

- SB 117, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on March 17, includes specific language that the law does not waive federal requirements imposed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, among other provisions. [Read the bill]

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**Special Education**

- Any new assessments and initial IEPs cannot take place until school resumes.
- All LEAs should be providing an education and support to students commensurate with those identified in their IEPs to the best of their ability.
- The federal Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services warns against taking no action during school closures out of fear of being unable to serve students with disabilities.
- Per the US Department of Education: “To be clear: ensuring compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitative Act (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act should not prevent any school from offering educational programs through distance instruction … federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individual needs of students with disabilities. The determination of how FAPE (free appropriate public education) is to be provided may need to be different in this time of unprecedented national emergency…. ” and that, “FAPE may be provided consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those individuals providing special education and related services to students.”

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**Technology & Cybersecurity**

Information and tips on using Zoom for public or board of education meetings:

- ‘Zoombombing’: When Video Conferences Go Wrong - As its user base rapidly expands, the videoconference app Zoom is seeing a rise in trolling and graphic content — [Read NY Times article]
- How to Keep the Party Crashers from Crashing Your Zoom Event — [Read Zoom Blog]
- Tip: Turn off Zoom’s default setting that allows any meeting participant to share their screen without permission from an event’s host — [Use this checklist]

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**Resources for Districts & Schools**

- Coronavirus FAQ for Immigrants (LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs) [click here]
- Coronavirus Testing & Treatment for Uninsured (LA County Consumer & Business Affairs) [click here]
- ‘Safer at Home’ FAQ (LA County Public Health) [click here]
- Special Education Guidance for COVID-19 (CDE) [click here]
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.