My recommendation on April 1 for schools to be physically closed through the academic year is not anything I would have predicted just a short time ago. We all had great hopes for a strong end to the school year, with seniors excitedly crossing the commencement stage cheered on by proud family and friends.

One thing we know for sure: students should not be penalized because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm encouraged that K-12 and higher ed leaders are working together to ensure flexibility around graduation requirements and college admission. Information on new guidance on grading and graduation is provided below.

Thank you for your flexibility and leadership. Please stay safe and connected.

Public Health Update

New CDC guidance:
Emerging evidence suggests a significant number of people may be infected with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic and capable of spreading the virus to others. People are now considered to be infectious 48 hours before the start of their symptoms until their isolation period ends. This makes social distancing and frequent hand washing even more critical.

LA County Public Health advises persons with or likely to have COVID-19 to notify all close contacts that they need to be in quarantine for 14 days after their last contact with them. Close contacts include all household members, any intimate contacts and all individuals who were within 6 feet of them for more than 10 minutes, starting 48 hours before symptoms began until the isolation period ends.

CDC guidance:
How COVID-19 Spreads

LA County Public Health guidance:
What to do if I am exposed FAQs

Assessment & Accountability

Guidance on grading/graduation:
CDE released guidance on April 1 for LEAs on grading and graduation during physical school closures. The grading guidelines for high schools are aligned to the revised admissions requirements recently adopted by UC, CSU and California's Independent Colleges. Regarding 12th grade students, CDE states, "It is expected that LEAs will enable students to complete graduation requirements with needed flexibilities," and provides guidance in areas that include distance learning and local policies to support these efforts.

In addition to presenting recommendations, the CDE website contains questions for LEAs to consider when adopting new distance learning and grading processes and links to a collection of instructional resources.

View CDE FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements

Nutrition/Meal Service

The Food and Nutrition Service established a nationwide waiver to support the Community Eligibility Provision while schools are responding to COVID-19. This waiver makes the following adjustments to annual CEP deadlines:

CEP Requirement: Data Used to Calculate Identified Student Percentage
Annual Data Deadline: April 1
New Extended Data Deadline: Anytime between April 1 and June 30, 2020

CEP Requirement: Elect CEP for Following School Year
Annual Application Deadline: June 30
New Extended Application Deadline: August 31, 2020

To review the complete language of the FNS CEP Waiver, visit the USDA webpage here.

Resources for Districts & Schools

COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools and Child & Adult Day Care Meals (CDE) click here
Legal Guidance for Districts from Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo click here
COVID-19 Moving Your Classes Online (Brandman University webinate) click here
Resources for Schools and Teachers from the National Dropout Prevention Center click here