

Hi Everyone,

First thank you for the great work you are doing during this difficult time. Together, we are marching on in a way no one has ever expected. By now all educators have heard that yesterday, Governor Gavin Newsom stated that it is “unlikely that schools will re-open and that districts should plan to not reopen.” The Governors goal was to get districts in a mindset that they would not reopen—so move forward with distance learning.

As everything is changing rapidly and all districts in Santa Clara County are following the direction from Santa Clara County Health Department and Santa Clara County Office of Education. **So far, we do not have any additional information on not reopening. We will continue to share all information when we receive direction to do so.**

This morning at 10 am, there was a webinar scheduled by California Department of Education for educational leaders. The webinar was a 75-minute webinar which was viewed by about 7,000 people. In keeping it simple, the main topics were:

1. ways to provide **distance learning**
2. providing meals for students
3. supporting parents with childcare

Before sharing the information below from EdSource, here are my “takeaways” from the webinar for our staff’

1. Distance learning is defined as: when the teacher and the student are in different locations and student work will be assessed
2. Reach out to families that have students with special needs to see how we can assist
3. Take attendance daily for educational purposed not for funding purposes
4. Have students submit work to you to inform your own practices on the new distance learning

**All information below, I condensed and took from [EdSource](#) a reliable California source. This information begins to clarify the direction we are taking in CA.**

- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond reiterated that school districts will receive funding and won’t have to worry about state testing, including the Smarter Balanced assessments in math and English language arts: **State tests will be suspended, pending a federal waiver, he said. (State testing does not apply to SVCTE/SVAE)**

“The governor’s order gives **flexibility to school districts to provide different ways to deliver education, and every school district will receive the funding that it needs as it finds alternative and creative ways to assure California students receive education.**”

Thurmond said the guidance document which was released by CDE yesterday to guide Distance learning will be updated at least weekly as events and will incorporate ideas and suggestions. They are still creating practices to work with English learners. What follows are summaries of the elements with comments from the webinar.

## **Distance learning**

The guidance said districts must immediately create a plan for distance learning, while recognizing that districts may have to ramp up efforts over several weeks. Shanine Coats, director of the state education department's Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division, reiterated what the guidance emphasized: "In these difficult times, we cannot lose track of the needs of our most disadvantaged students."

All students are legally entitled to standards-aligned materials. Some districts have been reluctant to plan new lessons due to the inability and uncertainty of reaching students who may not have home computers and internet access at home. The guidance encourages districts to find innovative ways and sources to provide lessons.

But equal access does not require all students receive the same material the same way. "Instead of abandoning a promising e-learning approach because not all students will have equal access to it from home, the plan should include an analysis of alternate deliveries of comparable educational content," the guidance says. These could include paper materials, phone calls to students at home and face-to-face meetings complying with social distancing.

The guidance includes extensive links to resources and best practices for online learning, including a section, assembled by the Riverside County Office of Education, on how to start from scratch. It features the gamut of experience: full-blown online learning by the [Westlake Charter School](#), Miami-Dade County Public Schools' [plan for emergency learning](#), and Los Angeles Unified's [partnership with PBS](#) to provide rich programming for all grades. The PBS service is particularly useful for students without Wi-Fi or a home computer, since most families do have a television, Coats said.

Look around for innovations, said Kirstin Wright, director of the state's Special Education Division, such as South Carolina's use of school buses to deliver food and lesson plans to homes and to serve as local internet hot spots.