



400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5600 • Fax (831) 466-5607 • [www.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)

Date: March 20, 2020  
To: Santa Cruz County Students and Families  
Re: **Update on Services Through School Closures**

Dear Families of Santa Cruz County,

School Districts and the County Office of Education continue to work together to provide our students and families with essential services throughout school closures due to COVID-19. Though our county's school districts vary in size and resources, we are equally committed to the success and wellness of our students, and are sharing expertise and resources between districts whenever possible.

Yesterday, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a statewide Shelter in Place order to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This order does not change directions previously issued to Santa Cruz County residents, but rather only directs other California counties to adhere to the same restrictions. The Governor has not specified an end date to the order, but anticipates school closures to continue into the summer months. It is our responsibility as a school community to be prepared for the possibility of a long closure. In a previous communication, we shared that schools will be closed through April 10, 2020. We will continue to work with public health authorities to determine the appropriate length of school closures across Santa Cruz County as more information becomes available.

Teachers throughout Santa Cruz County have been working diligently to prepare and plan for distance learning. We intend to provide all students from Transitional Kindergarten to 12th grade with learning materials that ensure their access to high-quality education throughout the closures. We recognize the challenges distance learning poses for families and are committed to supporting parents in helping their children access education from home.

We are currently in the planning stages of how services specific to Special Education students will be delivered based on individual student needs. For students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP), our Special Education staff or classroom teachers will be in contact with parents to review what to expect in the upcoming weeks. This may include, but is not limited to, virtual service delivery and/or consultation with providers via phone, email, or other use of technology in order to supplement packets or materials sent home, as appropriate.

We are working to help ensure all families have equitable access to internet services at home. Several internet service providers in the community are now offering free or low cost internet service to low income families. Internet access is key to help facilitate our efforts to offer engaging distance learning

opportunities for students and help families learn about how they can access essential services in the community. Please visit [sccoe.link/internet](http://sccoe.link/internet) to learn how your family may qualify for free or low cost internet services.

School Superintendents continue to work closely together and with the Department of Public Health to share information and make informed decisions on behalf of our school community. We ask that parents adhere to the “Shelter in Place Order”, practice social distancing, and proper personal hygiene practices to minimize the risks of exposure and transmission of illness at home.

Parents are encouraged to call or email their child’s school or district prior to visiting the site in person if they have questions or need services beyond the food programs available to their student or to pick up distance learning materials. Schools will observe the routinely scheduled break in services to students during the week of spring break. During this time, schools will not be offering food services nor distance learning. Pajaro Valley Unified School District, spring break will take place from March 31 through April 3. All other districts will observe spring break from April 6 - April 10.

We are working diligently to ensure our online resources are updated regularly with the most accurate information from public health authorities. Please utilize the following resources:

- Available community resources: [http://sccoe.link/community\\_resources](http://sccoe.link/community_resources)
- Activity Ideas for parents: <https://sites.google.com/pvusd.net/pvusdparentideas/home>
- Centers for Disease Control website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>.
- The Santa Cruz COE web page including an interactive map of food services distributions: [www.sccoe.link/coronavirus](http://www.sccoe.link/coronavirus).
- Public Health [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus)
- The Santa Cruz County has recently launched a Call Center to answer questions about COVID-19. Please call (831) 454-4242 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Friday
- In addition, residents may visit, call 211 or text “coronavirus” to 211211.

Now more than ever, the continued education of our students despite school closures represents a strong partnership between teachers, classified staff, and other educators and parents and guardians. We commend our school community for the flexibility, commitment, and resilience they have demonstrated to make continuity of these vital services possible.

Sincerely,

Laurie Bruton, Superintendent, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District  
Lorie Chamberland, Superintendent, Live Oak School District  
Eric Gross, Superintendent, Pacific Elementary School District  
Mike Heffner, Superintendent, Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District  
Tanya Krause, Superintendent, Scotts Valley Unified School District  
Michelle McKinny, Superintendent, Happy Valley Elementary School District  
Diane Morgenstern, Superintendent, Mountain Elementary School District  
Kris Munro, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools  
Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District  
Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools  
Scott Turnbull, Superintendent, Soquel Union Elementary School District



Fecha: 20 de marzo de 2020

Re: **Actualización Sobre Servicios a Durante el Cierre de Escuelas**

Estimadas familias del condado de Santa Cruz:

Los Distritos Escolares y la Oficina de Educación del Condado continúan trabajando juntos para brindarles a nuestros estudiantes y familias servicios esenciales durante el cierre de las escuelas debido a COVID-19. Aunque los distritos escolares de nuestro condado varían en tamaño y recursos, estamos igualmente comprometidos con el éxito y el bienestar de nuestros estudiantes, y compartimos experiencia y recursos entre los distritos siempre que sea posible.

Ayer, el gobernador Gavin Newsom emitió una Orden de refugio en su hogar a nivel estatal para combatir la propagación del nuevo coronavirus (COVID-19). Esta orden no cambia las instrucciones emitidas previamente para los residentes del condado de Santa Cruz, sino que solo ordena a otros condados de California que cumplan con las mismas restricciones. El Gobernador no ha especificado una fecha de finalización de la orden, pero anticipa que el cierre de las escuelas continuará durante los meses de verano. Es nuestra responsabilidad como comunidad escolar estar preparados para la posibilidad de un cierre prolongado. En una comunicación previa, compartimos que las escuelas permanecerán cerradas hasta el 10 de abril de 2020. Continuaremos trabajando con las autoridades de salud pública para determinar la duración adecuada del cierre de las escuelas en todo el Condado de Santa Cruz a medida que haya más información disponible.

Los maestros del condado de Santa Cruz han estado trabajando diligentemente para preparar y planificar el aprendizaje a distancia. Tenemos la intención de proporcionar a todos los estudiantes desde Kindergarten Transicional hasta el grado 12 con materiales de aprendizaje que garanticen su acceso a una educación de alta calidad durante los cierres. Reconocemos los desafíos que plantea el aprendizaje a distancia para las familias y estamos comprometidos a ayudar a los padres a ayudar a sus hijos a acceder a la educación desde el hogar.

Actualmente estamos en las etapas de planificación de cómo se prestarán los servicios específicos para los estudiantes de Educación Especial en función de las necesidades individuales de los estudiantes. Para los estudiantes con Planes de Educación Individualizada (IEP), nuestro personal de educación especial o maestros de clase se comunicarán con los padres para revisar qué esperar en las próximas semanas. Esto puede incluir, entre otros, la prestación de servicios virtuales y / o consultas con proveedores por teléfono, correo electrónico u otro uso de tecnología para complementar los paquetes o materiales enviados a casa, según corresponda.

Estamos trabajando para ayudar a garantizar que todas las familias tengan acceso equitativo a los servicios de Internet en el hogar. Varios proveedores de servicios de Internet en la comunidad ahora ofrecen servicios de Internet gratuitos o de bajo costo a familias de bajos ingresos. El acceso a Internet es clave para ayudar a facilitar nuestros esfuerzos para ofrecer oportunidades atractivas de aprendizaje a distancia para los estudiantes y ayudar a las familias a aprender cómo pueden acceder