



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

Date: April 24, 2020
To: Santa Cruz County Students and Families
Re: **Family Wellness and Support Services**

Dear Families of Santa Cruz County,

As we near the end of the 6th week of school closures, we understand that many families are grappling with exceptionally difficult circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and are in need of a range of additional services. Santa Cruz County schools recognize that it is our role to advocate for and support students and families beyond providing learning opportunities.

Many families are experiencing serious hardship that impacts their ability to meet the needs of their students. We are fortunate to be part of a community that has quickly mobilized to create services that help meet both the basic needs and emotional health of families. Having a safe way to connect with others while we shelter in place is crucial to help foster a sense of community and belonging that is important to maintain emotional wellness.

Santa Cruz County School Districts and the County Office of Education have been collaborating with local counseling, parenting, and support services agencies to develop new ways to help families address these needs, such as online/virtual support and networking experiences for both students and parents to help create a safe virtual space where families can share, learn, and lean on each other in these challenging and isolating times. Many families have reported that while they were initially resistant to using virtual communication tools for support, they found it very helpful once they started. Visit our webpage at sccoe.link/wellness and visit the links listed below for helpful social-emotional wellness opportunities and other emergency resources for families specific to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Resources for Emotional Wellness

- If you know of a family who may be experiencing domestic violence, or are experiencing violence yourself, please first contact either [Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center](#), [Monarch Services](#) or the [Survivors Healing Center](#) to speak with a certified advocate prior to taking action. Monarch Services Bilingual Crisis Support Line can be reached at 1-888-900-4232, 24 hours a day.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Santa Cruz County: namiscc.org
- Parenting Support Groups through [Live Oak Cradle to Career](#) and [Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance](#)
- Available Mental Health and Wellness Resources: sccoe.link/wellness

Basic Needs: (Rental Assistance, Food resources)

- Please call [211](tel:211) or text “coronavirus” to 211211
- Available community resources: sccoe.link/community_resources
- [Community Action Board](http://CommunityActionBoard.org), (831) 763-2147
- [Live Oak Family Resource Center](http://LiveOakFamilyResourceCenter.org), (831) 476-7284
- [Nueva Vista Community Resources](http://NuevaVistaCommunityResources.org), (831) 423-5747

Non-Emergency Health Care

- [Santa Cruz Community Health Centers](http://SantaCruzCommunityHealthCenters.org), 831-427-3500
- [Salud para la Gente](http://SaludParaLaGente.org), (831) 728-0222
- **For a Medical Emergency, Call 911*

Food Distribution

- The Santa Cruz COE web page including an interactive map of school based food services distributions: www.sccoe.link/coronavirus.
- USDA Food Distribution Locator Tool: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids> and USDA National Hunger Hotline, which provides referrals for emergency food options M-F between 7am and 10pm at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479)
- Second Harvest Food Hotline: (831) 662-0991
Distribution Locations: thefoodbank.org/food-distribution-nutrition-education-locations-times/

Public Health Resources

- Public Health www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus
- Santa Cruz County Call Center to answer questions about COVID-19. [\(831\) 454-4242](tel:8314544242) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Centers for Disease Control website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>.

Other Resources

- Unemployment Resources: www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/online_services.htm

Santa Cruz County schools continue to work closely with public health authorities to monitor the COVID-19 crisis and evaluate when and how schools will be able to safely re-open their campuses. Educators, administrators, and school staff are working more closely than ever to help ensure students have the resources and services they need to maintain their academic progress despite school closures and the challenges that come with distance learning. We commend our school and parent community for the flexibility, dedication, and resilience they continue to demonstrate as they help support students with their education and well-being through the COVID-19 crisis.

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