

Joshua L. Lightle, Ed.D.
Superintendent



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March 26, 2020

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND EMAIL

Prior Written Notice Re School/District Closure to Prevent/Contain the Spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

This letter is prior written notice by the Eastside Union School District ("District"), pursuant to 34 CFR § 300.503, of the closure of your student's school beginning **March 16, 2020**, and estimated to last at least through **May 6, 2020**.

The District has determined that it is necessary to close its schools to prevent/contain the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to current guidance from state and federal agencies. This determination is being made based on health and safety concerns for students, families, staff, and the community at large.

Beginning April 6, 2020, the District will implement distance learning techniques in the form of independent study, which will enable your child to receive special education and related services, to the greatest extent feasible, in an alternative manner. Please know that during the time our schools remain closed due to COVID-19, the District is unable to provide the exact services written in your child's individualized education program ("IEP."). This is because we believe that the health and safety of our students, staff, and community at large is of paramount concern. Further, the shelter in place orders and the guidance requiring social distancing mandate that changes must be made in the delivery of education to both general education and special education students. Not only is it impossible for the District to implement current IEPs, as written, because schools remain closed, but the health and safety concerns of all dictate that the District not do so.

For our students with IEPs, the special education staff and related services providers have developed a contingency plan for your child to receive special education and related services, to the extent that is possible and feasible, while schools remain closed during this COVID-19 crisis. Please be assured that this contingency plan to educate your child will only be in place during the COVID-19 school closure, and is necessary to protect your child's health and safety, as well as our student body, staff, your families and the community at large.

Please be advised that the District is not changing your child's IEP placement or services. Rather, the District has developed a contingency education plan to implement during this emergency situation. Therefore, please be assured that when the health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 are alleviated and the District is able to resume normal school operations, your child's IEP will be implemented as written.

In the coming days, your child's case manager will contact you to provide you with the plan that will be implemented during this COVID-19 school closure and to answer any related questions that you may have. Your child's independent study program may be comprised of some of the following:

- Weekly Academic and Related Service Assignments,
- Weekly Scheduled Teacher and/or Related Services Support via Telephone, and
- To the Extent they are Convened, All IEP Meetings will be held via Telephone.

Again, we want you to understand two important messages from our District. First, the District does not take lightly its obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, but at this time of great need and state of emergency, please understand that the health and safety of all dictate that an alternative plan to educate your child be developed and implemented. Second, this plan will only be in place during the COVID-19 crisis, and as soon as the health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 are alleviated and school resumes, your child will receive the placement as services as prescribed by his or her IEP.

In making its determination, the District reviewed and considered the following:

- Recommendations from the Center for Disease Control,
- Recommendations from the California Department of Education and the United States Department of Education,
- Recommendations from the Department of Public Health,
- Guidance from Governor Newsom, and
- All other relevant information available to the District.

Finally, please be advised that the parents of a child who has a disability have certain rights and procedural safeguards. You have previously been provided a copy of these for your review. Additionally, a copy of those parental rights and procedural safeguards have been posted to the District's website for your review. Should you be unable to access the website or wish for an additional copy of your parental rights and safeguards, please inform the District and we will provide you with a printed copy for your review. The sources which you may contact to obtain assistance in understanding the provisions of the enclosed procedural safeguards are:

Antelope Valley SELPA
38345 30th Street East, A-2
Palmdale, CA 93550

California Department of Education
Post Office Box 944272
Sacramento, California 94244-2720

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Annette Rego, M.Ed.
Coordinator of Special Education

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