

April 10, 2020

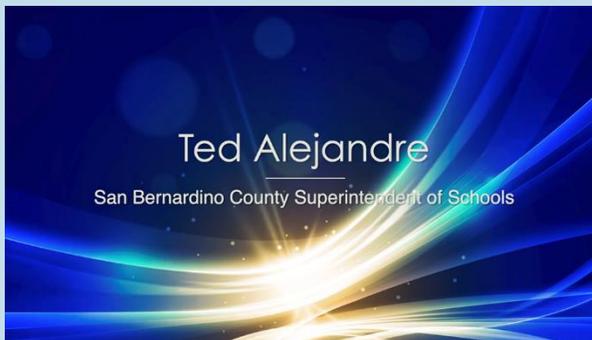


Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 Update

A Message from County Superintendent Ted Alejandre



[Watch the video](#)

With Easter and religious observances taking place this weekend, it is a natural time for us to pause and be grateful for the tremendous spirit and sense of community that has been instilled across San Bernardino County during these unprecedented times in dealing with the coronavirus. This week, most districts have returned from spring breaks and focused attention to distance learning for their students. It is inspiring to see the breadth and depth of the work taking place across our county and how quickly our teachers and schools have responded to these challenges.

Distance Learning

Following weeks of preparation, including webinars, professional development and collection of resources, many districts have rolled out practical applications of their distance learning efforts. San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' Student Services, and Technical Services office supplied hundreds of internet "hot spots" and delivered Chromebooks to students this week to support distance learning. In support of families, our County Schools' Family and Community Engagement department continues to provide virtual services to parents who are working closely at home with their children on distance learning.



KVCR's new public affairs radio program, [Inland Edition](#), is designed to inform our public about current conditions related to the coronavirus pandemic, and the many resources and services available in our two-county region's coordinated response. County Schools is delighted to partner with KVCR in these efforts. Over the past week, SBCSS Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Engagement Stephanie Houston and Chief Technology Officer David Thurston were featured and provided insights as to how education is working with districts and community partners to support staff and students in our new virtual learning environments.

County Schools continues to build a library of resources and tools available through the Distance Learning portal, featured prominently on our website at www.sbcss.net.

Childcare

On April 8, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order, providing guidance on emergency childcare, particularly to address the needs of essential workers on the front lines of supporting COVID-19 response. The order addresses issues relating to physical distancing, child-to-teacher ratios and group sizes that relate to running healthy and safe childcare facilities, [information here](#).

The new guidance came near the same time that the California Department of Education issued an update on priority enrollment for essential workers to state-subsidized early learning and care programs, [information here](#). These new emergency guidelines are currently in effect through June 30, but may be rescinded or extended depending on the spread of the coronavirus.



Health and Wellness

Healthy SBCSS is continuing to build on the existing partnership with San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health to provide resources for families and students who may be experiencing mental health concerns during this uncertain time. For more information on resources available to families, please visit www.sbcounty.gov/dbh or call 888-743-1478.



In addition, Children Deserve Success outreach through Foster Youth Services, Homeless Education and the Gangs and Drugs Task Force ensures support efforts reach our most vulnerable students and families. The San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Taskforce executive board met earlier this week and is determined to remain a force in the community. Topics of discussion included providing resources to curve domestic violence, equity and support from the faith-based community.

In an effort to protect the public from further spread of COVID-19, the County's Acting Health Officer formally ordered everyone in San Bernardino County to wear a face covering when leaving home. The full order can be found [here](#).

For additional information on face coverings for public use, visit the [California DPH website](#). Face coverings are not a replacement for other evidence-based measures such as physical distancing, frequent hand washing practices, and remaining at home when not doing essential activities.

San Bernardino County's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) is currently conducting Drive-Through testing for COVID-19. The testing will be available for the public by appointment only April 14-16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For additional information and to schedule an appointment, call 1-855-422-8029.

Despite the fact school sites are closed countywide, essential business functions of district operations remain, and work continues on budgets, payroll and procurements. Districts have completed second interim reports and are laying the groundwork for the completion of the fiscal year and preparing for the start of the 2020-21 fiscal cycle. With many staff telecommuting or staggered in support of shelter-in-place guidelines, county districts continue to do exemplary work in completing the day-to-day operations that provide for the continuity of essential operations and student learning.

Another essential function that San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools supports is the supply chain operations of ordering and distributing goods and services as well as school mail distribution. Weekday delivery of intra-district mail to 22 school districts continues, even with the inclement weather experienced this week. Thanks to all our procurement staff and drivers for their safe handling of these vital services.



County Schools' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continues its daily responsibilities and collaborative interagency efforts with other county responders. Although our EOC now operates virtually as staff honor stay-at-home directives to maintain safe and healthy working conditions, the gathering and sharing of information and resources facilitated by emergency responders continues to serve a vital role in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and distribution of interagency resources and supports.

This holiday weekend let's enjoy time with our families, while being mindful of the health, safety and well-being of our communities.

Be well,

Ted Alejandre

For more updates and additional COVID-19 resources, visit our website.

www.sbcss.net

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