



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

July 1, 2020

Dear East Side Community,

As we prepare and plan for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic, East Side is committed to ensuring equitable access to a quality education for all students. We recognize that there will continue to be changes as the situation with COVID-19 evolves and we will respond as needed given guidelines and restrictions issued by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

At this point in time, due to the increasing COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, with some of the highest cases falling within the ESUHSD boundaries, the safety and health of our staff, students and families is our top priority. Additionally, based on the districtwide survey and several virtual forums, anywhere between 40%-48% of staff, students and parents are not comfortable attending in-person instruction; thus, requiring us to examine the safest approach to the opening of our schools for the fall.

Our goal is to get back to full-time, in-person instruction as soon as possible. Based on current conditions and the expectations that schools will more than likely close at some point during the school year, ESUHSD has decided that we will start in distance learning for the 2020-21 school year with specific guidelines, expectations, and accountability measures in place.

We know that we want to provide in-person instruction for our most underserved populations, which include but are not limited to students who have special needs, Foster Youth, McKinney-Vento and our short-term English Learners. We will also be providing support for students who do not have broadband and/or a safe and quiet place to study. Additionally, we plan to offer in-person support for some specialty classes, tutoring, mental health and college guidance support.

We acknowledge the hardship that distance learning places on all stakeholders. We also acknowledge that we need to have more accountability for both staff and students as we begin the new school year. We are developing common assurances across the district for the delivery of instruction, grading and student support to ensure our goal of building equitable communities.

Please follow the links to our most current FAQs, which are located on our district and schools' homepages. We will update the FAQs throughout the summer and into the school year.

Please stay safe and be healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris D. Funk".

Chris D. Funk
Superintendent

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