



March 27, 2020

Via Regular U.S. Mail and E-Mail

Re: Prior Written Notice regarding School/District Closure to Contain the Spread of COVID-19

Dear Parent/Guardian of Students with IEPs:

This letter is written prior notice by the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (“SLOCOE”), pursuant to 34 CFR § 300.503, of the closure of your student’s school that began on March 16, 2020, and estimated to last until further notice.

SLOCOE determined it was necessary to close its schools to prevent/contain the spread of COVID-19, in consultation with the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), California Department of Education (“CDE”), and Department of Public Health (“DPH.”) Since the closure started, SLOCOE has received ongoing guidance from the Governor, CDE and the federal Office for Civil Rights (“OCR.”) SLOCOE will provide updates regarding its closure related activities as more information becomes available.

SLOCOE used the time during the initial days of closure to assess its educational delivery options to a home setting, particularly in light of local and state-wide home restriction directives. By March 30, 2020, your child will receive special education and related services in an alternate manner. Such IEP services will be provided through distance learning and/or other methods that allow your child to access curriculum and benefit from the educational program provided. Your case manager will be in touch with you about your Student’s program. That program will include:

- Access to the general curriculum,
- Access to special education if indicated on your Student’s IEP,
- Access to instruction through distance learning or other effective means, and
- Access to accommodations and related services if indicated on your Student’s IEP.

Please be aware that the educational placement and services made available during the period of the COVID-19 closure are not stay-put, and upon termination of the school closure, your Student’s stay-put IEP in effect before the COVID-19 closure shall serve as SLOCOE’s

obligation to make available special education and related services until a new IEP is developed that receives written parental consent.

When possible and appropriate, some teletherapy services may be made available to your Student. Teletherapy is the delivery of some SAI and/or related services (such as counseling, speech, behavior and/or occupational therapy) through online or telephone communication between student and service providers. Common online platforms for online learning include Zoom, Google Hangouts, and Seesaw. SLOCOE is committed to helping students learn in a way that makes them feel comfortable and confident. SLOCOE is also committed to protecting the privacy of your Student's learning, in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA.")

If your Student participates in teletherapy, educators and service providers will take steps to ensure your child's learning is comfortable and private by avoiding disclosure of instructional activities to bystanders, and by reminding students to find a quiet place for participation (though near adult supervision.) Please note that some teletherapy will involve small and large group learning, meaning other students might be involved in teletherapy instructional activities. Educators and service providers will communicate teletherapy schedules with you, and SLOCOE encourages you to discuss with your child what he or she learned and practiced. However, in order to ensure educators and service providers are able to maintain service schedules, parent-educator/provider discussions should be scheduled, and impromptu discussions before or after teletherapy should be avoided. If you have concerns about your student's ability to participate effectively in teletherapy sessions, please let the service provider know.

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

- Recommendations from the OCR,
- Recommendations from the CDC,
- Recommendations from the CDE,
- Recommendations from the DPH ,
- Executive Orders from the Governor,
- Recommendations from local governmental agencies, and
- All other relevant information available to the District.

Finally, please be advised that the parents of a child with a disability have protection under the federal parental rights and procedural safeguards set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 300. Enclosed you will find a copy of those parental rights and procedural safeguards. The sources which you may contact to obtain assistance in understanding the provisions of the enclosed procedural safeguards are:

California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 2401
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

San Luis Obispo County SELPA
8005 Morro Road

Atascadero, CA 93422
(805) 782-7301

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (805) 888-9048 between 8:00 a.m.
and 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly Phillips".

Holly Phillips
Director of Special Education

Enclosure: Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards