

Ceres Unified School District

“Committed to Excellence, Responsive to Every Student”

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Scott Siegel, Ed.D.

Dear Ceres Unified Stakeholder Committee Members:

Thank you for your participation in the stakeholder meetings held to help plan for the 2020-2021 school year given the district's implementation of distance learning. Senate Bill (SB) 98 established that the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and an annual update to the LCAP are not required for the 2020-21 school year and that the California Department of Education (CDE) shall not publish the California School Dashboard in December 2020 based on performance data on the state and local indicators. SB 98 also establishes California Ed Code Section 43509 and the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (Learning Continuity Plan) requirements for the 2020-21 school year. Your feedback regarding the LCP has been invaluable as the district has developed the plan for this year. The actions and expenditures referenced in the plan will guide us in meeting the needs of all students and the needs of English learners, foster youth, and low-income students in particular.

The Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP) input from each of the stakeholder groups was positive. Participants provided the feedback regarding areas of strength and actions and services which should be continued for each of the LCP areas as well as opportunities for growth and recommendations for additional actions and services. As a result of your input and analysis of district and school data, the following additions and continuances have been made in the LCP and will be implemented during this school year while distance learning is the mode of instruction, or in a hybrid model, a part of a combination of distance and in-person instruction.

- **Distance Learning Training and Supports:** Feedback was provided to emphasize professional learning and training related to distance learning. Professional learning opportunities have been offered in this area for classroom teachers and support staff. Training for parents is being held safely at school sites. Individual support is also being offered by additional Technology Specialists at every school site and through the Technology Support Hotline.
- **Technology Support and Enhancements:** Highlighted across stakeholder meetings was the emphasis that technology support and enhancements will be essential during this time. As a result, additional Technology Specialists have been hired for every school site, devices were provided to support staff and parents as necessary, additional hotspots have been purchased for families, multiple professional learning opportunities have been offered, and the district is pursuing projects to increase and improve band-width and internet access for all families. Additional funds were also provided to school sites for the purchase of classroom technology tools to enhance distance learning instruction. Feedback was received that sound issues were occurring frequently on ZOOM lessons, and the district has purchased a high-quality headset and microphone for every student.
- **Engagement and Re-Engagement Plans:** Stakeholders asked the district to ensure that students are engaged as much as possible throughout distance learning and that re-engagement actions be put in place to support struggling students. Classroom teachers are using a variety of strategies to engage students in learning, some of which have been taught through professional learning offerings, and every school site has re-engagement plans in place to address students who are absent from school and/or struggling with their learning.
- **Tiered Academic and Social-Emotional Supports Interventions:** This action relates directly to the section above. In response to the re-engagement needs and the mitigation of learning loss, the district has tiered academic and social-emotional supports to address the specific needs of students. The support becomes more intensive as a student displays the need. These systems have been in place as a result of the LCAP process in recent years; however, the assessment of need and corresponding actions will be different during this unique time in education.

- Adjustments of Meal Service Plan: Stakeholders made the request for families to be able to pick up all student meals at any school site in the district. Originally this was not going to be allowed by the state and federal agencies, but that restriction has since been lifted. Now the “Seamless Summer” option has been extended and meals can be picked up from any school site for any child 18 years-old or younger.
- Access to Supplemental Materials: Stakeholders made comments as to whether students will have access to the supplies and materials needed at home during distance learning. Basic supply kits were purchased and distributed to all students, additional funds were allocated to school sites for the purchase of materials and supplies beyond that - including the purchase of more specialized supplies and equipment to support learning in elective classes throughout distance learning.

Your voices and expertise have helped us to develop a comprehensive Learning Continuity & Attendance plan for Ceres Unified for the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you for your active engagement and input in this important process. The Board of Trustees received copies of your feedback and will be making final decisions regarding adoption of the LCP in late September.

Sincerely,



Scott Siegel, Ed.D.
Superintendent