

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

A joint advisory from SWTA Officers, Bargaining Team, and CTA Staff



Advisory # 1

Right now, our primary concern remains the safety of our students, educators and families and delaying the spread of the Coronavirus. Hopefully, as the "new normal" sinks in, the adjustments we've made will become less challenging. We understand it's been a chaotic time since last Thursday when this all started to change. To help members stay informed and respond to questions you have submitted thus far, SWTA/CTA has prepared the advisory below.

SWTA Updates as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 @ 4PM

SWTA President, Vanessa Barrera, Bargaining Chair, Brenda Robles and CTA staff Helen Farias held a tele-conference with SBUSD's bargaining team today to discuss an MOU-COVID-19 ensuring the safety and health of our unit members, clarifying leave provisions, as well as expectations regarding distance learning. Additionally, we sought clarification of the district communication (sent via email yesterday) regarding Government Code 3100, which declares public sector employees are designated disaster workers.

Currently, there is no agreement; however, the District did confirm the following:

- No unit members are currently working, nor is there an expectation any member will be called into work this week
- No unit member is required to conduct any distance learning at this time
- Unit Members are highly encouraged to check their district emails to be informed
- If you are not receiving EdConnects from the District, please check that your information on IVisions is up to date

We will teleconference again on Thursday afternoon, and expect further clarification, and are hopeful we can reach agreement on a short term MOU addressing specific concerns around working during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Legislative Updates as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 @12PM (noon)

- On March 16, 2020, the California State Legislature introduced emergency legislation to address the state of emergency that Governor Gavin Newsom declared on March 4, 2020, in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic – Senate Bill 117.
- Senate Bill (SB) 117: The COVID-19 emergency relief bill—SB 117, was *unanimously* passed by the Legislature and will be signed by Governor Gavin Newsom very soon—appropriates \$100 million to enable Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to do as follows:
 - To purchase protective equipment, or
 - To pay for supplies, and labor related to cleaning school sites, or both
 - **AND will be allocated on an average daily attendance basis for LEAs that provide classroom-based instruction** between March 4 and June 30.
- **Assessments Timelines:** Assessment timelines for all students and English learners are amended by the emergency legislation. The testing window for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), and the Physical Fitness Test is

extended “by the length of time a school is closed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), or until the end of the testing window, whichever comes first.” Additionally, the timeframe to assess students for English language proficiency is extended by 45 days, or a period otherwise determined by the SPI.

CDC GUIDELINES

Guidelines include but are not limited to the following:

- Governor called for home isolation of seniors ages 65 and older, and those with chronic health conditions
- Governor urged restaurants, bars, etc. to cut capacity to allow for “deep social distancing”
- CDC is now urging a nationwide halt to gatherings of more than 50 people for next eight weeks

On the Horizon:

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020 per the Governor’s Executive Order N-26-20, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the Health and Human Services are expected to jointly develop and issue guidance covering how to support parents to care for their children during ordinary school hours. **Executive Order N-26-20 CLICK HERE**

On Thursday, March 19, 2020 @4PM—In order to support members who may be teaching through distance learning, the California Teachers Association (CTA) is hosting a one hour webinar on best practices for virtual teaching.

Space is limited to 500 attendees

*This webinar will be recorded and a link will be sent out to access the webinar if members are unable to join.

Best Practices for Virtual Teaching Webinar

Your administration is asking you to teach students virtually... now what?

You may be a confident brick-and-mortar teacher, but distance learning comes with a whole new set of challenges. Where to start? What resources are appropriate for an online lesson? How do we know the kids are even paying attention? This webinar will help answer these questions, and more! For this session, we will focus on online teaching basics, specifically on how to create an engaging, impactful live virtual lesson, so you can maintain that crucial personal connection with your students during this unique time.

Presenter: Nicole Piper, CTA member and educator with 7 years of online teaching experience.

Date & Time: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting HERE Meeting ID: 998 482 283

Dial by your location

+1.669.900.6833 US (San Jose)

+1.253.215.8782 US

State Level Update — California Teachers Association (CTA)

RETIRED Educator lost to the Coronavirus— The California Teachers Association joins the Sacramento community in mourning the death of a retired and longtime educator with the

Sacramento City Unified School District who succumbed Monday to the novel Coronavirus COVID-19. CTA President E. Toby Boyd released these comments today:

*"Our first concern is always to keep our students, educators and their families safe and healthy, but **this news reminds us that it is our older and most vulnerable populations who hold the highest risk of contracting the virus.** On behalf of all those who have lost their lives since the Coronavirus onset, we ask that you join educators throughout the state in heeding the directives of authorities and health officials in order to minimize the spread of this disease."*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING AND EQUITY

We appreciate your eagerness to provide lessons for students; however, **at this time do NOT push out required lessons to your students.**

Teachers are asking: Why can't I just email parents with instructions for student work?

ANSWER: Please be patient and refer parents to optional work provided by SBUSD **CLICK HERE**

Keep in mind that school districts statewide must abide by the LEGAL guidelines that are currently being defined legislatively and approved by the Governor. Yesterday, Senate Bill 117 unanimously passed by the legislature will soon be signed by the Governor. Furthermore, our SBUSD students are diverse. Factors under consideration as we move forward with "REQUIRED" lessons/work/projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Access to the internet
- Access to a computer
- Access for English Language Learners
- Access for our Students with Special Needs
- Access to materials

Updates will continue to be shared via email and posted on SWTA's Facebook page.

Thank you for staying informed.