

TEMPLETON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of Tomorrow's Leaders"

960 Old County Road • Templeton, CA 93465 • (805) 434-4074 • FAX (805) 434-5851



VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND EMAIL

March 15, 2020

**RE: Prior Written Notice Re School/District Closure to Prevent/Contain the Spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

Dear Parent(s) of a special education student:

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the Templeton Unified School District ("District") is taking all necessary precautions not to spread the virus. As you have likely heard, the District will be closing its schools, effective March 16, 2020. It is currently anticipated that schools will re-open on April 13, 2020, although that is dependent on a rapidly developing and changing situation. The first week, March 16-20, will be teacher work days / non school days and no work will be provided to any student. From March 23-April 3, distant learning will take place for all students, as appropriate. Spring break (non school days) has been moved up a week from the original instructional calendar and will occur April 6-10.

Along with student learning, student health and safety are top priorities for our District. This letter is meant to serve as notice regarding the school closure ordered by the Templeton Unified School District ("District") and is provided in accordance with Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations, section 300.503.

We know that school closure is concerning, especially for our students with exceptional needs, and want to ensure you that we have your child's education and safety at the forefront of all decisions being made and actions being taken. The District has determined that it is necessary to close its school(s) 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").

*The District intends on providing services/access to general education student during the closure, include the following:*

Continue delivering high-quality educational opportunities to students to the extent feasible through, distance learning; and

Provide school meals in non-congregate settings through the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option, consistent with the requirements of the California Department of Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The California Department of Education and the Health and Human Services Agency shall jointly develop and issue guidance by March 17, 2020. The guidance shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following topics:

Implementing distance learning strategies and addressing equity and access issues that may arise due to differential access to Internet connectivity and technology; and

Ensuring students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education consistent with their individualized education program and meeting other procedural requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and California law.

Templeton Unified School District is committed to providing ongoing education for all our students via online resources. Students with special needs will have access to online opportunities from their general education teachers and/or special education providers. For some of our more intensive programs, the nature of the comparable activities (packet work, online options) will be determined by special education providers. IEP case managers will be contacting families by email or phone regarding activities available for their students.

If you have an IEP meeting, team meeting or other meeting scheduled with your site, those meetings will be postponed and rescheduled once students are back on campus. Scheduled assessments will also be postponed until after students return to campuses.

***Notice of Parental Rights, Procedural Safeguards, and Resources***

The District acknowledges your right to make informed decisions regarding your child's education. Accordingly, I am enclosing with this letter a copy of the rights and procedural safeguards under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"). The District takes these rights seriously, so please feel free to contact me to address any concerns you may have regarding this letter. You may also contact the following agencies to obtain assistance in understanding your parental rights:

San Luis Obispo Special Education Local Plan Area  
8005 Morro Road, Atascadero, CA 93422  
(805) 782-7301 ph | (805) 466-1473 fax

and

California Department of Education  
P.O. Box 944272  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2720

We know how difficult a closure such as this can be and only moved in this direction after careful thought and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have as I remain at your service.

Sincerely,



Dee Dee Mello-Wisch, TUSD Special Education Director

Encl: Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards