

Modesto City Schools COVID-19 Operations Written Report

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone	Date of Adoption
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Descriptions provided should include sufficient detail yet be sufficiently succinct to promote a broader understanding of the changes your LEA has put in place. LEAs are strongly encouraged to provide descriptions that do not exceed 300 words.

Provide an overview explaining the changes to program offerings that the LEA has made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency and the major impacts of the closures on students and families.

In response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency, Modesto City Schools closed in person sessions on March 19, 2020 and shifted to distance learning for all our 30,000 students. This was communicated widely to staff, students, parents and community through a variety of platforms. In this report we outline the 4 phases that the district engaged in. Phases 1 and 2 address the planning to address this shift:

Phase 1 - First week of closure (March 16-March 20): Instructional staff used prioritizing grade level standards to develop packets and distributed to students including Early Childhood Education students. Packets contained a review of already taught standards. A plan was developed for 1:1 device distribution to students in grades TK- 6 as well as all students with moderate to severe disabilities. Students in grades 7-12 already had 1:1 devices prior to school closures. Packet content was also available online during this time. The district and all site level websites were redeveloped to ensure ease of access to up to date information.

Phase 2 - Weeks 2-3 of school closure (March 23 – April 3): Instructional coaches created resource folders for core content at every grade level focused on essential standards and use of district adopted curriculum. Scaffolds and supports are embedded to assist the instruction of ELs, at-risk students and students with disabilities. Distance learning plans were created for all students with disabilities following the guidance of the CDE. Professional development was focused on teacher needs to ensure best practices in distance learning and use of online tools. MCS staff accessed 235 webinars

specific to distance learning for a total of 20,076 views. Parent webinars (15 videos) and support tools were developed and made available in English and Spanish, these have been accessed over 14,000 times.

Throughout all phases of school closure/distance learning, social emotional supports for students included counseling services, counseling hotline, and staff may conduct home visits for high needs situations. Social emotional supports and resources were also provided to teachers via Schoology resource folders.

Throughout all phases of school closure/distance learning, regular meetings to support site administrators were held to discuss and troubleshoot barriers and issues. FAQs were updated regularly for accurate communication within the district and to address parent questions.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities.

Modesto City Schools district learning instruction phases built on the work described in phases 1 and 2.

Phase 3: Week 4 - Last day of school (April 6- May 29):

Digital learning of new instruction was delivered through various platforms. Teachers developed lessons that were synchronous, asynchronous or a combination.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Department provided an online distance learning website that began in Phase 1 with developmentally appropriate activities for children ages 0 - 5. Packets were mailed out monthly to families of enrolled ECE students that included daily activities and instructional staff reached out to families twice a week. Administrators and office staff monitored student usage data and contacted families. Barriers were addressed to ensure access. Internet hotspots, translations and a multi-language hotline were made available to assist families. Teachers and instructional coaches held “office hours” for individualized support.

A Board resolution was approved during school closures that ensured student grades would not be adversely impacted by the equity issues of distance learning: a) 3rd quarter grades could be improved as these were final grades for the year, b) no grading of new content, c) credit recovery options for all High School students to support graduation.

Phase 4: Summer School planning and 2020 - 2021 school year planning.

Summer School: We are offering an on-line standards-based program for every student in grades K-7. This program will be accessible all summer to students and families who wish to log-in. The online program focuses on ELA and Math. Identified at-risk students are offered the opportunity to work with support of a teacher in use of the online program. Students in grades 7-12th will be offered credit recovery opportunities.

2020 -2021 School planning is taking place to ensure the health and safety of staff and students upon return, while delivering high quality instruction. Several models are in development to prepare for the various social distancing guidelines.

Provide a description of how the LEA is meeting the needs of its English Learners, foster youth and low-income students.

Modesto City Schools supported English Learners, foster youth and low-income students during distance learning in academics and social emotional support throughout all four phases described above.

Academic support for ELs consisted of using current curriculum resources that have a digital platform and include ELD standards-based instruction as well as language supports in all content areas. Designated and Integrated ELD is a State requirement for all ELs that was met by assigning academic and social language development activities in all four domains: Speaking, Listening, Writing and Reading. Teachers accessed specific webinars to learn how to access, assign and support students in each digital platform, this included ELD instruction. All students had an opportunity to receive a device for distance learning.

Foster and homeless youth supports included communication and check ins with students, families and caregivers by phone, email or other methods. MCS informed students, foster families, caregivers and caseworkers regarding the school district's grading and graduation policy for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and ensured students and families were aware of the District's Nutrition Services meal pick up locations. Foster and Homeless youth maintained 2019-20 enrollment in current school with continuation of distance learning, even if placement changed to another district's area of attendance. Students were provided support to know how to engage in distance learning provided by the district and were connected with information and resources to communicate with teachers or counselors to help them access schoolwork. Collaboration with Stanislaus County Office of Education and student caseworkers to meet the individual needs of foster youth took place as needed.

The district provided multi-language translation supports on the district website, all "dial out calls" were sent out in English and Spanish. MCS provided a multilingual hotline to assist non-English speaking parents and students.

School site leaders accessed weekly data to identify students that need support, this data was disaggregated to ensure low-income, EL and Foster Youth students were provided enhanced outreach when needed.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to provide school meals while maintaining social distancing practices.

When schools initially closed, Modesto City Schools immediately began providing meals to anyone 18 and under in a curbside drive-through program.

Meals were available to anyone 18 years and under. This was widely advertised through social media, dial out calls and the district website. Several news reports have aired regarding the meals program at Modesto City Schools. This program was available for families on school days. Both breakfast and lunch are provided daily at 15 locations across the district. Locations were set up to be drive-through and families were asked to stay in their vehicle. Walk-ups were discouraged, but if necessary, maintained social distancing. For walk-up customers, the district security teams monitored social distancing as families and students waited in line. Eating on site was not permitted.

We averaged 15,000 meals a day distributed to children. Approximately 10 staff members per site at 15 locations supported the meal distribution program. This included food nutrition staff, custodial staff and security staff.

Meal distribution will continue through the summer.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

Upon school closures, Modesto City Schools developed and opened a centralized child care facility for the school age children TK-6th grade of essential workers. Essential workers eligible included: health care workers, first responders, and Modesto City Schools essential workers such as those providing meals and other critical tasks. Program was open to all students of essential workers in the area regardless of school or district of enrollment. The centrally located program

operated 6:30 am to 7:30 pm, Monday - Friday. Meals were available for enrolled children. Enrolled students received distance learning support from certificated staff members to ensure students access their instructional distance learning. Student to staff ratio was kept to 10:1 or less, with consistent student groups to mitigate student and staff exposure. Staffing was provided by trained Modesto City Schools staff that opted to provide this support. MCS staff was supported by staff from a contracted agency that has expertise in child care activities. Staff received training on maintaining social distancing and sanitation routines. Additional custodial support was implemented to ensure that the facility was sanitized regularly. This service was advertised to all local medical facilities, first responders, and MCS staff. Information was located on our district website. Modesto City School's program adhered to all the guidelines in EO N-26-20 and EO N-45-20.

Additional pop-up child care information was provided through referrals to the Family Resource Center and the Mychildcare.ca.gov website.

MCS prepared a family child care network to provide care for enrolled children (ages 6 months - 4 years) of essential workers. This became operational on May 18, 2020.

California Department of Education
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