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October 9, 2020

*Via First Class Mail and E-mail to:
smacias@swhittier.net*

Ms. Sylvia V. Macias
Board President
South Whittier School District
11200 Telechron Avenue
Whittier, CA 90605

Dear Ms. Macias:

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of the staff of the South Whittier School District to maintain continuity of services to the students of the district during the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting school closures.

As a result of the pandemic, Senate Bill 98, signed by Governor Newsom in June 2020, eliminated the requirement for local educational agencies (LEA) to adopt a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) for the 2020-21 school year and instead required the adoption of a learning continuity and attendance plan (Learning Continuity Plan) for the current school year. The new plan requires LEAs to address how the LEA will address continuity of learning for the 2020-21 school year through descriptions of specific activities to be conducted through in-person instruction and distance learning. In addition, the legislation requires LEAs to describe in the plan how they are increasing or improving services for low-income students, English learners and foster youth (referred to as unduplicated pupil groups), in proportion to the funds generated on the basis of the number and concentration of those students, as compared to services for all students.

The instructions for completing the plan address what is required for a sufficient response to each of the prompts. The instructions also indicate that responses to the prompts should be specific, concise and clear, with the overall goal of promoting stakeholder understanding. The legislation provides that the county superintendent may submit recommendations, in writing, for amendments to the plan by October 30, 2020. The governing board of the school district shall consider the recommendations in a public meeting within 15 days of receiving the recommendations (EC 43509(c)). No further action is required, however, if the board determines that changes will be made to the plan based on the recommendations, we ask that the district provide the county office with the updated plan so we can ensure the correct plan is posted on our website as required (EC 52065(b)).

Below are recommendations from our office for amendments to South Whittier School District's Learning Continuity Plan to ensure a sufficient response to all prompts based on the criteria provided by the California Department of Education in the instructions to the plan.

Recommendations for Amendment:

Actions Related to the Distance Learning Section

- Include as contributing actions, only actions that are based on the needs, conditions and circumstances of low-income students, English learners, or foster youth.

Increased or Improved Services for Foster Youth, English Learners and Low-Income Students

- Consistent with 5 CCR 15496(b), describe how the LEA-wide or schoolwide actions included in the Learning Continuity Plan and marked as contributing to the increased or improved services requirement for foster youth, English learners, and low-income students are *Principally Directed and Effective*. For these actions, explain how: the LEA considered the needs, conditions, or circumstances of its unduplicated pupils as a result of COVID-19; the action, or aspect(s) of the action (including, for example, its design, content, methods, or location), is based on these considerations; and the action is intended to meet the needs of the students in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Consistent with the requirements of 5 CCR Section 15496, describe how the action(s) included in the Learning Continuity Plan, and any additional actions not included in the plan, are expected to result in the required proportional increase or improvement in services for unduplicated pupils as compared to the services the LEA provides to all students.

If you have specific questions regarding any of the recommendations, please contact Rachel Garcia, the coordinator assigned to the district.

Sincerely,



Debra Duarte, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

DD/RG:pc

cc. Gary Gonzales, Ed.D., Superintendent, South Whittier School District
Martha Mestanza-Rojas, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, South Whittier School District
Arturo Valdez, Deputy Superintendent, LACOE

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