



Diann Kitamura, Superintendent
211 Ridgway Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 528-5181 Fax: (707) 528-5440
E-mail: dkitamura@srcs.k12.ca.us

March 7, 2018

Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent
Performance, Planning, and Technology Branch
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Dear Deputy Superintendent Ashley,

Santa Rosa City Schools hereby submits for your consideration a request to waive the 2017/2018 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System assessments that include the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC) for English language arts/literacy and mathematics and the California Alternative Assessment (CAA) in grades three through eight and eleven, as well as the California Science Test (CAST) in grades five, eight and twelve and the Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) for reading/language arts in grades two through eleven, under the waiver authority provided in Section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), 20 U.S.C.7861, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), Pub. L. No. 114-95.

Beginning the night of October 8, 2017, Sonoma County, including Santa Rosa, experienced several days of uncontained, massive wildfires. The fires destroyed the homes of 80 Santa Rosa City Schools' staff and 817 students. The fires burned the Hidden Valley Elementary Satellite campus and also much of Santa Rosa High School's teaching farm located on Alba Lane. Whether the fires directly impacted students or staff, everyone in the district has friends or relatives that lost their homes and all of their belongings. In addition, a secondary impact to our staff and students is the loss of local businesses and industry as a result of the fire. Many families who did not lose their homes have lost their employment, causing additional trauma to our community.

The Governor of the State of California declared a state of emergency for Sonoma County due to the fires. According to Cal Fire, the Tubbs fire burned 36,807 acres, destroying 5,643 structures, and killing 22 people. As a result of the Tubbs fire, all Santa Rosa City Schools were closed and many district staff were on mandatory evacuation for extended periods. Most schools did not have electricity, gas or water. Two of our schools, Elsie Allen High and Lawrence Cook Middle, were used as emergency evacuation shelters since they were the furthest from the fire. The fires continued to rage into the second week and remained uncontained. The inspection of all schools began with the determination from insurance officials that Santa Rosa City Schools' sites would need to be thoroughly cleaned due to smoke, ash and other debris, and then inspected again before being declared safe for students to return. Professional cleaning crews worked to clean two-million square feet on our campuses, replacing 3,000 HVAC filters, opening and cleaning each school locker individually, and remediating four high school turf football fields. Thirteen of our schools reopened to students after being closed for 14 school days. The other 11 reopened after being closed for 15 school days.

Every student. Every possibility. No matter what.

Our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) has two distinct goals. Goal One is to provide a coherent, rigorous and relevant teaching and learning program to graduate college and career ready students. Goal Two is to increase student and family wellness and engagement through the full-service community school model. Based on staff and stakeholder feedback as well as research on effective practices, we are implementing our LCAP's 15 Actions/Services in Goal One and 10 Actions/Services in Goal Two to improve services for the Low Income, English Learner, and Foster Youth subgroups. This includes using a portion of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Supplemental funds for site allocations based on the number of unduplicated youth served to allow sites to implement site-specific solutions based on unique site needs and site stakeholder input. Three significant actions to improve services are:

- *H109*: Implement an English Learner Master Plan to guide the instructional program to ensure EL students are progressing and reclassification rates are increasing while reducing Long Term English Learner rates. Provide support services for Long-Term English Learners and Migrant students to accelerate their ELA and math proficiency.
- *H201*: Increase targeted engagement and communication with parents of UPC students to provide greater access and build partnerships with school, community-based organization and local businesses.
- *H207*: Ensure all foster youth, English Learners, and low-income students have individual learning plans to support school connectedness and academic achievement. Provide 5 LCAP bilingual school counselors (SOLL) to provide case management to foster youth and English Learners. As we move forward with local assessments and continued monitoring of growth and change, we will maintain our efforts for these LCAP goals.

By waiving the requirements of the CAASPP assessments, teachers and students will be able to focus on the instructional content not covered due to the lost school days. The degree of trauma and anxiety students, parents, and staff have endured will be tremendously reduced knowing they will have this time for teaching and learning in areas of instruction missed during the three weeks when schools were closed. Santa Rosa City Schools remains committed to ensuring all students are provided the opportunity to reach their potential, and will continue to assess all elementary and secondary student growth through the continued use of benchmark and interim assessments that are aligned to both common core state standards and the item specifications required by the Smarter Balanced Assessments. These assessments will take place in late spring or early fall. We will notify parents and guardians with results via mail and post them in our student information system portal.

Santa Rosa City Schools seeks a waiver of the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), 20 U.S.C.7861, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), Pub. L. No. 114-95 for the remainder of the 2017/2018 school year. These provisions include:

- Section 1111(b)(1)(B) which requires that challenging academic content and achievement standards to apply to all public schools and public school students in the State and include the same knowledge skills and levels of achievement expected of all public school students;

March 7, 2018
Page 3

- Section 1111(b)(2)(B) which requires that the same academic assessments be used to measure the achievement of all public elementary school and secondary school students and be administered to all public elementary and secondary students in the State.

If the waiver is granted, Santa Rosa City Schools will implement the waiver in compliance with the following conditions for all district schools upon return for the 2018/2019 school year:

- Provide academic instruction on California's challenging academic content standards which are aligned to academic achievement standards expected of all public school students;
- Participate in California's high-quality student academic assessments in mathematics, reading or language arts, and science to measure each student's academic proficiency; and
- Participate in the statewide accountability system to measure progress toward meeting goals for all students and separately for each subgroup of students to improve academic achievement.

Santa Rosa City Schools will provide notice and information to the public for comment regarding this waiver request. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Anna Guzman, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction: aguzman@srcs.k12.ca.us

Sincerely,

Diann Kitamura, Superintendent
Santa Rosa City Schools