

COVID-19 OPERATIONS WRITTEN REPORT

June 3, 2020

Provide an overview explaining the changes to program offerings that the local educational agency 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 caused by the COVID emergency, Death Valley Unified developed a COVID-19 plan that was adopted by the staff anticipating closure of direct classroom instruction during the second week of March. School attendance ceased on March 17, 2020 with the implementation of distance learning opportunities for all students as well as home delivered meals.

Teachers are working to ensure that students do not backslide academically while progressing through appropriate grade level curriculum. Up this date the teachers have prepared assignments and sent them home twice a week or weekly as appropriate. Assignments are returned twice a week in conjunction with meal deliveries.

The impact of this service delivery model is lack of social interaction for our students, the difficulty in losing face to face student contact and the effort required to maintain student and staff morale.

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

Owing to our small number of students it has been possible to connect with our handful of English learners and those of our families who are low income. Focusing on paper and pencil assignments has been important as Internet connectivity is a problem for many families (as is bandwidth capable of handling video conferences). In the meantime, English learners are engaged and doing very well with supplementary help available as needed.

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

Teachers have delivered high-quality distance learning opportunities to each student by maintaining personal and individualized contact with students and their families. Learning packets have been the primary system for delivering curriculum to students. Implementing online learning platforms has not been the primary approach to curriculum delivery though, as teachers are gradually becoming better versed in student and parent friendly learning platforms.

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

Social distancing is not an issue as all meals are home delivered to students. As families don't live in close proximity to each other it is not difficult for our meals coordinator to not only deliver meals but to drop off and pick up assignments. It is also possible for our meals coordinator to act as a community liaison helping answer questions parents may have about future plans, concerns they have about job losses and a simple connection with another human being.

Also of note is ice delivery to families lacking electricity. With its large ice machine the district has been able to provide this commodity to families which otherwise could not take advantage of the district's meal delivery program.

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

In order to ensure social distancing and prevent the spread of COVID-19 over our 5000 square mile district, steps have been taken to address the possibility of student participation in on-campus programs. First, steps may be taken (pending state and federal guidelines) to split students up into regional programs. That means that students from Furnace Creek would be attending Death Valley Elementary while students from Charleston View, some 100 miles to the southeast would be attending Shoshone Elementary School. This step is to address the broad footstep of our district and the movements of its students.

Furnace Creek students often have affairs to tend to in Bishop while Charleston View students have affairs to attend to in Las Vegas, Nevada. By staggering attendance days and opening up a dormant campus it will be possible to have students attend school, stay socially distanced and still be able to have personal interactions.