



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

August 26, 2020

Dear Families of Santa Clara County,

As you all know, California is under a state of emergency due to raging, ravaging wildfires. Simultaneously, we have endured a heatwave, intolerable air quality, and evacuations leaving many families displaced and uncertain about shelter and basic necessities. These challenges have taken a tremendous toll on our health and well-being. We are deeply saddened by the tremendous amount of loss associated with this tragedy and we want you to know that we stand with you in the midst of this chaos. You are the priority and it is of equal importance to ensure that you are all well and obtaining the assistance you need, despite this incredible hardship.

While we continue to remain steadfast in our support, we want you to know that our county districts and charter schools are working closely with the Santa Clara County emergency operations center to mobilize all the resources at our disposal to support students, staff, and families with emergency shelters, temporary housing, food, mental health support, and more.

As such, we have created a web portal for you to remain informed about the latest updates regarding air quality, wildfire-related evacuations and other emergency protocols, located on the Santa Clara County Office of Education web page: sccoe.org/resources/emergencyadvisory.

We also know the tremendous impact this has had on instructional programs throughout the county. Families can expect to hear from their school district about the status of their child's school and services provided to them, and we encourage students and parents to connect with their local districts and schools websites and social media platforms for updated information. We understand that some school districts have weighed the option to suspend instructional programs as a result of this dynamic situation and are in full support of their decision. In making the recommendation to consider the suspension of instructional programs, individual school districts are taking into account multiple factors including air quality, number of staff impacted by evacuations, number of students unable to access their school programs, if the school campus is within an evacuation zone, power outages and the impact of closure on feeder school districts.

During these unprecedented health and safety circumstances, it is important that we all remain alert and aware of important resources available to us. Of course, we will

continue to update our SCCOE Emergency Advisory webpage, as well as send daily advisory briefings to our district and school partners. In addition, we recommend you bookmark the following list of recommended resources for quick and regular access.

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/oes/Pages/home.aspx>
- [@SCC_OES](#) (Twitter)

CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX INCLUDING WARMELLA FIRE - CAL FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE WEBSITE

- <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/16/czu-lightning-complex-including-warnella-fire/>
- <https://twitter.com/CALFIRECZU>

SCU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRE - CAL FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE WEBSITE

- <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/scu-lightning-complex/>
- <https://twitter.com/calfireSCU>

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY

- <https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/news-release-subscription/>

CAL FIRE TWITTER

- [@CAL_FIRE](#)

AIR QUALITY RESOURCES

- AirNow - <https://www.airnow.gov/>
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District - <https://www.baaqmd.gov/>

This year has been fraught with many obstacles and I have never been more proud of the incredible amount of resilience our teachers, students, staff and community have shown in the face of these astounding challenges. We stand with you and we are committed to supporting you through this crisis. Please visit our SCCOE emergency advisory web [page](#) to continue to stay safe and informed.

We are stronger together,



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools