May 22, 2020

Re: Framework for Plan to Reopen Schools

To the families in Santa Clara County,

The Santa Clara County Office of Education and school district superintendents are collaborating to evaluate the needs of schools in Santa Clara County in preparation to reopen this fall. The health and safety of our students and families are our top priority. Any plans to reopen schools for in-person instruction will adhere to guidelines that are based on requirements outlined by the Department of Public Health and implements restrictions necessary to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. While there is no guarantee that COVID-19 will not present itself in schools, there is much planning that can occur to respond to this possibility.

This effort is based on key principles that will ensure we address the needs of students, staff, families and community. All district Superintendents in Santa Clara County are committed to developing reopening plans that are guided by the following:

- Protect the Safety and Health of Students, Staff and Families
- Plans Must Work to Ensure Equity, Access and Inclusion
- Eliminate Opportunity Gaps, Address Learning Loss, and Accelerate Achievement
- Promote Innovative High Quality Teaching and Learning Across All Environments
- Ensure Fiscal Stewardship Aligned to Students’ Needs
- Engage Stakeholders in Transparent, Collaborative, and Compassionate Decision Making

We are facing challenges unlike school years in the past. The extraordinary work of teachers, students, parents and staff has made a tremendous impact during school closures. The effort we have witnessed is a testament to the great commitment and resilience of our community and will continue to inspire us to provide an engaging environment that supports the acceleration and progress of learning. We are stronger together.

Thank you for your partnership and patience as we plan for the reopening of schools in Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,

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