

# San Dieguito

Union High School District

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**Special Education Department**  
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April 6, 2020

Dear Families of Students with Disabilities,

I wanted to reach out to connect with you directly during this time of uncertainty that is impacting our world. As most of us are experiencing, having school suddenly close and students at home is difficult, and the impact can be more significant for students with disabilities and their families. In addition to the day-to-day realities of living through a crisis, we know that this time brings with it many questions and concerns about your student's education, unique needs, and how those will be met. These are uncharted waters and there are a lot of unknowns right now. I just want to reassure you that we are working constantly through the regularly updated guidance from the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), the California Department of Education (CDE) and the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and are doing our best to align their guidance to what state and local health departments are advising in order to foster the health and safety of our students and staff.

During this time, my commitment to you is that we will try the very best we can to minimize the impact we are all facing in this difficult time. As you are aware, the District kicked off its Distance Learning Plans on Monday, March 23, 2020 and throughout these last two weeks you should have heard from all of your student's teachers, case manager and related service providers. The District is implementing, to the greatest extent possible, all that is feasible to provide your student with the supports and services they require within the parameters set for us by state and local health departments. These service and support sessions will look different (virtual and telephonic as opposed to in-person) but your providers will continue to support you and your students with that adjustment as best as they can by providing detailed guidance and information. We are committed to ensuring everyone feels comfortable and is aware that we are protecting their privacy to the maximum extent possible, which is why sessions are never to be audio, nor video recorded by either party unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

As we near our Spring Break, my hope is to hear from you about anything else the District can do to best support you, specifically in regards to your student(s) with disabilities, throughout this crisis. We've created a brief survey, [linked here](#) (or posted on the District Special Education page of our website), that

will allow you to provide us with feedback so that we can further determine what else we can do to try and ease the impact.

Please remember that we are each doing our best in a very tumultuous time that impacts each of our families and lives uniquely. Be good to yourself and your neighbors, knowing that whatever you are doing, you are doing great and it is enough. As a parent faced with the particular challenges of attempting to continue learning for your child with a disability, we recognize your plate is already very full. Spending time together learning creates positive connections with your children, and we encourage you to try. At the same time, please give yourself grace and make sure that you are caring for yourself, too.

If you haven't already, don't forget to check out our District webpage for Coronavirus Information as you will find several resources including tips for health and wellness, coping and managing stress, links to community resources and services, social stories and other guiding documents for talking to and supporting your student's understanding during this time, etc.

Please do not hesitate to reach out directly if you have questions or need support. Our program supervisors, listed below by school site, are available to answer questions and help address your needs.

Schools:	Program Supervisor:	Email:
EWMS and LCCHS	Jesse Mindlin	jesse.mindlin@sduhsd.net
TPHS	Kellie Maul	kellie.maul@sduhsd.net
OCMS and PTMS	Jennifer Havlat	jennifer.havlat@sduhsd.net
DNO and CCA	Nathan Molina	nathan.molina@sduhsd.net
Seaside and SDA	Monica Davey	monica.davey@sduhsd.net
ATP and CVMS	Mallory Thau	mallory.thau@sduhsd.net
District Support-Coordinator	Robin Ross	robin.ross@sduhsd.net

We are all in this together, and we look forward to our continued partnerships as IEP team members in support of your child's needs.

Warmest Regards,



Tiffany Hazlewood, M. Ed  
Director of School and Student Services  
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