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03/20/2020

RE: Prior Written Notice Re: School/District Closure to Prevent/Contain the Spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter serves as Prior Written Notice by the Modesto City Schools SELPA pursuant to 34 CFR § 300.503. This notice is to inform you of the closure of your student's school beginning 03/19/2020 and is estimated to last through 04/03/2020. As you know, the District will be closed for Spring Break from 3/23/2020, through 3/27/2020. School is scheduled, at this time, to resume on Monday, 04/06/2020. This date is subject to change based on future information or shelter in place extensions.

The District has determined that this school closure is necessary to prevent/contain the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to current guidance from state and federal agencies. This determination is being made based on health and safety concerns for students, families, staff, and the community at large.

We know that school closure is concerning, especially for our students with exceptional needs, and we want to ensure you that we have your child's education and safety at the forefront of each decision being made and the actions being taken.

During this time period, the District will continue providing educational opportunities to students through hard copy instructional materials to be delivered with meals at the identified meal pick up locations throughout the District, or materials can be picked up in person at our Professional Development Center located at: 1017 Reno Avenue, Building B, Modesto. Additionally, materials and additional resources can be found on our website, at www.MCS4kids.com.

The District is in the process of developing a plan to provide additional educational opportunities to students and to implement student IEPs to the best of our ability during this time of school closure. We acknowledge the impact of the current situation on our students and families, and the additional challenges it creates.

In making its determination, the District reviewed and considered the following:

- Recommendations from the Center for Disease Control,



Modesto City Schools
426 Locust Street
Modesto, CA 95351
209.574.1500
www.mcs4kids.com

- Recommendations from the California Department of Public Health and the Stanislaus County Public Health and Health Services Agency,
- Recommendations from the California Department of Education and the United States Department of Education,
- Guidance from Governor Newsom, and

All other relevant information available to the District.

The school closure has been required based on the COVID-19 pandemic, health and safety concerns, and necessity given the District's need to provide a safe learning environment for students and a safe working environment for staff. This necessity is the basis of the very serious decision to temporarily close our schools. Due to this necessity and taking into account all of the District's legal obligations, we do not believe there are other viable options available at this point in time.

If new information becomes available, the decision about providing educational opportunities may change. When schools re-open for instruction, District staff will closely monitor your child's skills and performance to determine if there are any concerns with educational progress or regression due to the school closure. If there are any such concerns, District staff will notify you, and if necessary, will convene an IEP meeting to discuss your child's individual needs.

Finally, please be advised that as parents or guardians of a child with a disability, you have certain rights and procedural safeguards. Enclosed you will find a copy of those parental rights and procedural safeguards. The sources which you may contact to obtain assistance in understanding the parental rights and procedural safeguards are:

Modesto City Schools SELPA
426 Locust Street
Modesto, CA 95351

California Department of Education
P.O. Box 944272
Sacramento, CA 94244-2720

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at (209) 492-1789 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Christina Romero, Senior Director SELPA/Elementary Special Education

Christi Allan, Senior Director SELPA/Secondary Special Education

Enclosure:
Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards