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March 27, 2020

Leadership Las Vegas Alumni  
c/o Leadership Foundation  
575 Symphony Park Ave., Ste. 100  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Dear Leadership Las Vegas Alumni:

As Superintendent of the Clark County School District (CCSD), the fifth largest district in the nation representing 320,000 students and 42,000 employees, I am writing to request your support in ensuring all families throughout Southern Nevada have access to the necessary technology and connectivity required for distance learning.

In response to the health crisis created by COVID-19, Governor Steve Sisolak issued an order for all schools on March 16 to close until April 16. Following that order, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) issued a directive to all school districts in our state to mobilize distance learning to ensure continuity of education for the children of Nevada.

Since the beginning of the school closure, CCSD began sharing learning activities with families to engage our students in continued learning, and promptly acknowledged concerns about the barriers to access technology facing as many as 60 percent of the 320,000 families we serve.

With the distance learning that began to be formally deployed following NDE guidelines on March 23, the need to address this divide is eminent. CCSD estimates 120,000 devices need to be acquired, set up and distributed in the coming weeks. The District has ordered 46,000 devices by redirecting grant funding to support our families in need, and is also in the process of utilizing inventory available in schools and central offices. Additionally, CCSD has worked with telecommunication partners to address the connectivity divide. However, this still leaves 74,000 children in our community without the tools necessary for their continued learning.

CCSD Technology Fund

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As the community has expressed interest in supporting our students, I have worked with the Public Education Foundation (PEF) to create a CCSD Technology Fund that is ready to begin receiving donations immediately. It is important to note that the fastest and most effective way to contribute would be through monetary donations, as we need to ensure each device in the hands of students meets minimum requirements and is properly equipped to handle the software requirements, including content blocking software, necessary for compliance with educational standards.

Companies or individuals looking to donate to the CCSD Technology Fund should contact Ms. Kirsten Searer, PEF president at [kirsten.searer@thepef.org](mailto:kirsten.searer@thepef.org). For other ways to engage with CCSD and support or families, please contact Ms. Maria Marinch, CCSD's Chief Communications and Government Relations Officer, at [marinmx@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:marinmx@nv.ccsd.net).

Please let me know if I can provide additional information to facilitate the process for our community to support CCSD's students, and please share this information with others.

Wishing you and your family the best during these trying times, and expressing my gratitude on behalf of the 320,000 CCSD families.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Jesus F. Jara', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Jesus F. Jara  
Superintendent

By e-mail

cc: CCSD Board of School Trustees

K. Searer, PEF

M. Marinch, CCSD