



**Clark County School District  
Superintendent Dr. Jesus Jara  
*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***

Summary of Clark County School District Update  
April 20, 2020

**Background**

Superintendent Dr. Jesus Jara provided an opportunity for Chamber members to ask pressing questions about continued distance learning and preparations for the end of the school year.

**What is the status of acquiring digital devices for students to do distance learning?**

CCSD has already purchased \$13 million worth for devices for students. CCSD had 250,000 devices before the shutdown. Even with devices, CCSD still needs to help these get connectivity and very appreciative the assistance that has been provided by Cox Communications. *Note that the question is not answered here.*

**What is the status of the food distribution program for students through CCSD?**

CCSD food service workers are now at 38 sites across the county to distribute food to our community. CCSD is working on a plan to feed families throughout the summer.

**Is the school district taking advantage of the 4 hours of airtime that is available to them?**

Yes, absolutely. CCSD is prioritizing mental health for kids and families. CCSD social workers are on channel 14 with our airtime.

**Moving forward, how will distance learning change our school system? Will anything be permanent?**

I am challenging our staff to see what lessons we can learn from COVID-19 and use in the future to support student success. We need to support our kids and teachers. The teacher will never be replaced. We must look at competency-based needs.

**Have you heard about any best practices from other school districts?**

As the superintendent, I am serving on a task force, which is looking at a national level of what is working well from school districts across the country.

**What are the best practices that will be implemented for schools at reopening?**

We must start with how we get all these kids on the bus. We must think outside the box, and maybe the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. schedule is not the best possibility for students. We are looking at all different options. We are checking laws for attendance and to maintain funding.

**Have any decisions been made on when the school year will end?**

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CCSD is working with and is in communications with the Governor's office. I am concerned with coming back too early, if we will retain our staff and if parents will let their kids come back. We are looking at what summer looks like and how coming back to school in August will work. For summer programs, CCSD does partner with the Boys and Girls Club.

**Can you share how the distance learning approach is working?**

It was developed with an equitable focus. We need every kid to have access. We have a diverse community and some need food and shelter as a priority. We have largely left it to the schools on how to best address the student population's needs. We must remind folks that there were inconsistencies before, and, now, parents are a second teacher.

**How does grading work with distance learning?**

Assignments and tests are still graded by the teacher. CCSD is trying to keep students engaged through the fourth quarter.

**Which families can access the food programs?**

If you have a school-aged child, CCSD will get you a meal. They are not asking what your lunch status is.

**What will graduation look like?**

We have asked graduating seniors what they want and sought their input. They do not want any virtual graduations. CCSD is willing to wait so the seniors can walk across that stage. We will work with the CDC and meet the guidelines.

**How is the student-teacher contact working?**

We are using Google Meet. There are phone conversations and really any way we can have two-way communication. It is hard with our high school kids. They are older so they can check out easier and parents have a harder time connecting with them.

**How is distance learning impacting AP testing?**

The College Board jumped right in and they are offering the testing online. They also offer webinars. Our AP teachers are phenomenal.

**How can parents help with distance learning?**

They should contact the school to make sure the kids are staying engaged. We are also looking at prep like pre-calculus to make sure they are ready for the next class level.

**What impacts to the budget are you working with?**

CCSD is looking at the unspent grant funds and that has been given back to the state. CCSD's final budget will be out in May. CCSD is also waiting on the federal money to minimize any gaps in funding.



**What percentage of the food is being picked up at the locations, and how much is wasted?**

The food is not being wasted. We are meticulous with the meal count.

**Some of the COVID-19 dollars included money for professional development. Is there a plan for teacher development?**

We are developing plans with the state now, and over summer too. But we need to use the federal funds to transform our whole school system.

**How is this crisis affecting teacher recruitment?**

CCSD is hiring right now and are opening the fingerprinting process this week. Principals are hiring for every needed position.

**What plans and resources are offered for special education students?**

CCSD is getting guidance from the U.S. Association of Special Needs Education. Teachers are being very resourceful. CCSD has webpage at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net) on how they are implementing this. The social learning and occupational learning is a challenge, but they are trying.

**How are support staff being used, like bus drivers?**

We are training these employees in different aspects and assignments, but they are not teaching.

**What are some of the things you have learned?**

We have been in this new world, but we have been forced into it. We must have multiple plans and they evolve every minute. I came from a district where closures from hurricanes were common, but that was temporary. So, we must think how do we transform our entire education system and be flexible to teach our kids?

**In the area of early childhood learning, what can we do as parents and what can teachers do?**

After we balance the budget, we are looking at how we use the federal funding. We must maximize the opportunities we have and catch up students over the summer.

**How have the unions responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it is having on local government budgets?**

CCSD has been in conversations with the different collective bargaining unions from the beginning.

*This information is as of 4.20.2020, not legal advice and is provided only as a courtesy. It is subject to change. For the latest information, please go to [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net).*