

June 1, 2020

Dear AUSD Staff and Families:

As our District staff works to plan and prepare for the still uncertain fall amidst the ongoing pandemic, we now are called to move forward in those uncertainties amidst even greater levels of grief and trauma. Across the nation, demonstrations and unease have expanded in the wake of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and in New York we recently saw a glaring example of a person attempting to weaponize racial bias and the 911 emergency system against an African American man who was simply watching birds.

And violence and strife are not just impacting the broader nation, but also our community as well. We are deeply saddened to report that last night, an Encinal High School graduate from the class of 2016 was killed in a shooting in Oakland.

We do not have extensive details on this local incident at this point, and also want to be very respectful of the young person's family. As information becomes available we will share it with our community where it is relevant, respectful, and appropriate to do so.

We are aware of these situations, and are aware of the fears, grief, and anger that many of our families may be experiencing, and we are committed to supporting all of our families as we move forward.

The Superintendent will be planning an additional communication later this week, and we are also discussing a community conversation to talk about the racial inequities and conflict in our country and how these conditions impact our community and our families. We especially want to hear your ideas on how we can support you over the summer and next year.

Most immediately, a community conversation on mental health issues has been scheduled for this Thursday that will help families locate specific resources and supports that are available to students and families through our staff and partnering providers. That meeting will take place at 5:30 pm. The Zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/AUSD-MHo6o42020>; the password is 890671.

We also recognize that facilitating conversations with kids at this time can be challenging and needs to be done in developmentally appropriate ways. If you need ideas our [Tools for Family Conversations](#) web page may be something you find useful.

Please take care of yourselves and your families at this extraordinarily challenging time.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi  
Superintendent

Mialisa Bonta  
President, Board of Education