

COVID-19 Operations Written Report for Southside Elementary School District

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone	Date of Adoption
Southside Elementary School District	John Schilling Ed.D Superintendent/Principal	jschilling@sbcoe.org 831-637-4439	6/22/2020

Descriptions provided should include sufficient detail yet be sufficiently succinct to promote a broader understanding of the changes your LEA has put in place. LEAs are strongly encouraged to provide descriptions that do not exceed 300 words.

Provide an overview explaining the changes to program offerings that the LEA has made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency and the major impacts of the closures on students and families.

The abrupt onset of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the drastic measure of closing schools to students to prevent the spread of the disease and to maintain student and staff safety. Southside school notified parents of the school closure on 3/13/20 along with all other San Benito County schools as a preventative safety measure for our community. After the school closure decision was made, students were placed on a "break" for one week (3/16-3/20) so that teachers were able to develop plans and curriculum for distance learning platforms and instructional packets for students. Distance learning began formally on 3/23/20 and Southside teachers were in contact with students and parents about individual and class assignments throughout the school closure. Southside school adopted the approach of a blend of previously learned materials for review combined with new material to prevent student academic regression. The format of instruction was a blend of online/distance learning with independent studies. What did that look like? In K-3rd grade it was packets of work, iReady online assignments, Footsteps to Brilliance or a combination of other online platforms. For 4th-8th grade students, it was assignments through google classroom, remind, emails, zoom, etc.... Teachers made daily contact with each of their students for the duration of the school closure. Communication with parents and students was a priority. Weekly updates were emailed to parents each Friday. Often emails were sent during the week to parents about local resources, health and safety updates, and County level initiatives. Southside's distance learning plan was communicated with parents on 4/2/20. Southside staff decided to alter our traditional grade and reporting practices to a pass/fail system for the last quarter of the school year.

To inquire about the challenges faced by parents and families, a survey was sent to parents on 5/22/20. The results of the survey indicated that 60% of families were little to not prepared at all for the transition to distance learning. Parents had to rely upon home based technology (65.7%) and in home wifi (94.3%) to access distance learning online. When asked about the impact COVID-19 has on student learning 42.9% indicated that the impact had a moderate to strong negative impact on learning. 52.9% of parents indicated that switching to a pass/fail grading practice helped to decrease student anxiety about academic success in the fourth quarter. Overall parents were satisfied with the communication from the school and from teachers and were satisfied with the volume and rigor of the academic content.

Provide a description of how the LEA is meeting the needs of its English learners, foster youth and low-income students.

English Learners:

Southside teachers and two bilingual instructional associates completed daily contact with English Learner (EL) students. For students requiring intensive instructional support, our bilingual aids conducted tutorial sessions over the phone with individual students. Secondly, students were assigned iReady curriculum resources online to provide intervention support through an online platform. Each family was asked about access to a device for internet access and if a family did not have a device, a Chromebook was provided by the school. For students that did not have internet access, paper packets were printed and delivered to students. 3 families were identified in the first two weeks that did not have access or resources to get online.

Foster Youth

Southside does not have any students identifies as foster youth.

Homeless/Low income

Many of the same supports used for EL students were used for our low-income and homeless students. A data extraction for our student information system provided us with an identified updated list of homeless families and students. Each family was contacted and provided listing of the food and meal support programs in the county. A partnership with the Director of Special programs in the San Benito County office of Education provided a second layer of service for our most needy families, gas cards and food card were distributed to three families in extreme living conditions.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities.

Southside was not alone in the struggle to provide a quality distance learning program. Every school district in the state and most of the districts across our nation and the world were faced with the same challenges of a new way to educate our children. As the administrator, I am thankful that we have such a dedicated and innovative staff who are committed to the education of our students. Our staff could have not done this alone cannot do this work alone and we asked for parents and families to help support distance learning.

Example of Resources used and school wide practices

Teachers take daily student attendance

Students must check in with teachers each day

Students must follow the learning plans designed by teachers

Continue to follow students Individual Learning Plans (IEP's)

We will continue to provide both on-line and printed resources such as:

iReady

Footsteps 2 Brilliance

Classroom instruction through zoom, facebook live, google classroom, skype

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to provide school meals while maintaining social distancing practices.

During the first week of distance learning, our kitchen staff provided bag lunches for students each day. After the first week Southside partnered with Hollister school district to provide student breakfast meals and student lunches. Southside communicated with all families about the specific location and times to pick up student meals at local Hollister school district elementary school sites.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

Southside did not provide student supervision during the school closure. The Southside school facility was closed to the public and the Southside School social distancing plan was communicated to parents describing the limitation of public access to the facility.