

Parent Update - School Closure & Distance Learning

Soledad Unified School District



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1261 Metz Rd., Soledad, CA 93960

April 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

This is an update on information related to school closure due to the Coronavirus. First, we want to thank you for your support and involvement in our efforts to continue services to our students. School closures were announced on Friday, March 13. On Monday, March 16, our district began providing free breakfast and lunches for pick-up at school sites. Our parents have been responsive and cooperative in this process.

Distance Learning

The District posted [Parent Resources During School Closures](#) on the District's website on March 20. This resource includes online learning resources as well as student mental health resources. Our teachers began producing student learning packets that same week, and the first round of learning packets were distributed on March 26 & 27. Another round of teacher-created packets were distributed this past week which provides for student packets through May 1. If you have not yet picked up a learning packet unclaimed packets for all grade-level students will be mailed to home addresses.

Note that Spring Break is scheduled for April 10 - April 17. There will be no food service on those days. The Monterey County Food Bank will continue to distribute food on Mondays at Our Lady of Solitude Catholic Church, 235 Main Street in Soledad

As you know, it has been announced that school sites will remain closed through the end of the school year. While buildings will not reopen this year, teaching and learning will continue.

Credit/Grading for Distance Learning

Students will receive credit and/or grades for completed learning packet work. In the interest of safety, the District is asking parents to keep the learning packet assignments completed by their students until such time when safe submission of the work can be arranged. Credit and grading of completed online work will be done

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by your student's teacher(s). An announcement regarding credit and grades for the 4th quarter (Main Street MS) and spring semester (Soledad HS & Pinnacles HS) is forthcoming.

Online Learning

Many parents and students have expressed interest in online learning. Our district is working to scale up online learning opportunities for our students in all grades. It has implemented a training program for teachers on providing online distance learning for students using Google Classroom and SeeSaw. Training for teachers began on March 31 and will be ongoing. Some teachers are already connecting with their students using online resources. Other teachers may begin use of online learning as soon as April 20. Parents can expect teachers to make contact with students (and parents) through email, Google Classroom (grades 3-12), SeeSaw (grades K-3) and Zoom, a secure conferencing application.

Access to Technology

This past week, a survey was sent to parents through School Messenger. The survey asked parents about the availability of a device for their student's use at home and if there is internet access at home. The results indicated that many students have access to a device and internet at home while others do not. The District is committed to provide equitable access to online learning for all students.

Devices

In order for a student to participate in online distance learning, s/he needs access to a device (school-issued iPad or their own device) and internet at home. Students in grades 7-12 have been issued iPads which are pre-loaded with the necessary applications to participate in online learning. Students in elementary grades JK/K-6 were issued iPads for use in school. The District is planning to distribute devices at school sites for those students who need a device. There will be a check-out process, and parents will be asked to sign an agreement accepting responsibility for the district-issued device. A detailed distribution schedule will be announced through school autodialer calls and school messenger.

Internet Access

There are resources available for students and parents who do not currently have internet access at home. These resources include:

- AT&T - [low-cost wireline home internet service](#) for qualifying households - data caps have also been removed for 60 days.
- [Charter/Spectrum](#) - First 60 days free - \$22.99 with WiFi after COVID-19

Our district will provide as much information as possible to parents seeking internet access at home for their students as it becomes available.

Retrieval of Student Belongings

Some parents have asked about retrieval of student belongings left at school in classrooms or locker rooms. In response to the Coronavirus, the district completed a deep cleaning of all school facilities over the past two weeks. We want to ensure the continued safety of staff, students and parents during this Coronavirus period.

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A plan for safe retrieval of student items will be developed. Parents and students will be notified of the plan for specific schools.

Refund of Payments

The district has received a few calls regarding refunds for the Soledad Education Foundation Carnival which was cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Many refunds have already been made back to ticket holders. To ensure safety, in-person refunds will not be made until further notice. Refunds will resume when it is safe to do so.

Promotion & Graduation Ceremonies

The District is planning postpone and reschedule Promotion and Graduation ceremonies which were scheduled for early June. A future announcement will be made when we have more information.

We appreciate your continued involvement in your student's education. We look forward to continuing the educational process through the end of the school year.

Sincerely,

Tim Vanoli

Tim Vanoli,

Superintendent

Attachments

- AT&T Internet Access Information
- Spectrum Internet Information
- Online Learning Agreement

Welcome to Spectrum Support

🔍 How can we help you?

[Support Home](#)

[Account & Billing](#)

[Internet](#)

[TV](#)

[Voice](#)

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COVID-19 Remote Education Credit

Showing Content for 95141 ZIP Code [Edit](#)

During this time of uncertainty due to COVID-19, our customers need to stay connected more than ever.

We're committed to offering special discounts to households affected by this virus. Beginning Monday, March 16, we'll offer free access to internet and WiFi for 60-days for new Pre-K to 12, college student and teacher households who don't currently have internet or WiFi service. This discount will be applied as a credit for your first two months of internet services. We'll waive any installation or pre-payment fees to help get you started.

You can qualify for this offer if you:

- Have a student of qualifying age at your service address with remote education needs
- Have not subscribed to our internet services within the past 30 days

Call **(855) 243-8892** to sign up for this offer.

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 **access**
from AT&T

Making Home Internet affordable for you

[Get started](#)



Access from AT&T

For eligible limited income households¹

\$10/mo plus tax

For speeds 5Mbps - 10Mbps

\$5/mo plus tax

For speeds 768Kbps - 3Mbps

You will receive the maximum speed available at your address.

Includes free installation, free in home Wi-Fi and a data allowance of 150GB or 1TB depending on speed available in your area. \$10 charge for each additional 50GB. [See details](#)

¹ Access from AT&T provides wireline Home Internet to limited income households who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or receive Supplemental Security Income benefits in California.

COVID-19: Our Commitment

Now more than ever it's important you have access to the Internet to stay in-touch with your family, friends, work and school. That's why AT&T will continue to offer you an affordable way to connect.

In response to the public health crisis, Access from AT&T is temporarily:

- Offering **two months of free service** to new customers who order Access by April 30, 2020. \$5/mo or \$10/mo thereafter, depending on your speed.
- **Expanding eligibility** based on income² and to households participating in National School Lunch Program/Head Start
- **Waiving** all home internet **data overage fees**

Learn [more](#) about AT&T's COVID-19 response.

² Household income based on 135% or less than the federal poverty guidelines.

SOLEDAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



April 6, 2020

Distance Learning – Acknowledgement and Consent

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Because of the school closures due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Soledad Unified School District is considering distance learning opportunities in order to provide your student with ongoing access to learning. This form identifies the distance learning opportunities, or platforms, that the District may use and asks for you to sign and return the attached form for your student to participate in these opportunities.

Distance learning is instruction in which the student and instructor are in different locations. Distance learning is being defined by the State of California to include video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the student and instructor is online interaction, instructional television, video, tele-courses or conferences, or other instruction that relies on computer, virtual or communications technologies. It may also include the use of print materials incorporating assignments that are the subject of written or oral feedback. The aim of distance learning is to allow educators and providers, in collaboration with the District, to provide ongoing instruction and high quality educational opportunities.

The District anticipates, at this time, utilizing the following platforms to support your student during this period:

- Google Classroom (Learning Platform): – https://gsuite.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html
- SeeSaw (Online Classroom Meeting Platform): – https://gsuite.google.com/terms/user_features.html
- Zoom
<https://zoom.us/terms>

Other platforms may be used by specific teachers.

The use of technology for the provision of educational opportunities through distance learning may result in the creation of pupil records not in the District's control as well as student-generated content, and may result in the unintended revelation of personally identifiable student information beyond the District's control. We acknowledge that many technology platforms maintain data shared on their platforms and want to provide you notice of the same. The District will endeavor to work with the technology companies utilized in the provision of distance learning opportunities to ensure the privacy of our students is maintained consistent with all relevant federal and state laws, including the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). We expect these companies will act consistently with common standards of student privacy used when providing educational services. We will make our best efforts to ensure that the collection and use of any student data is limited to educational purposes only and seek to prevent the unauthorized release of student information or use of student data for marketing purposes.

DISTANCE LEARNING – ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT

I understand and acknowledge:

- ✓ My child has the right to confidentiality as it pertains to distance learning.
- ✓ I understand, by law, there are exceptions to confidentiality, including mandated I understand, by law, there are exceptions to confidentiality, including mandated reporting of child, elder, and dependent adult abuse as well as safety concerns related to danger to self and danger to others. I understand my provider may have to break confidentiality under these circumstances.
- ✓ My teacher and/or service provider will conduct educationally-related instruction by way of distance learning in a confidential setting.
- ✓ My child will remain in a confidential setting during receipt of distance learning to the extent possible, and within the District's control.
- ✓ I further understand it is illegal to record any instruction or educational session without the prior written consent of the principal and teacher/service provider.
- ✓ Telephone/audio/video transmission will not be retained by the District in any medium.
- ✓ I have the right to discuss any of this information with the teacher/service provider and/or principal and to ask questions I may have.
- ✓ I acknowledge and reaffirm my agreement under the District's Acceptable Use Policy and the District's rights to monitor, regulate bullying, and sets expectations for good behavior while using this platform.
- ✓ I can withdraw my consent to this form at any time by providing written notice to the Soledad Unified School District Office, 1261 Metz Road, Soledad, CA 93960.
- ✓ I have read and understand the information provided in this correspondence.

I acknowledge that my receipt and review of this form means that I understand, and agree to the District's use of technology, including online, virtual and communications platforms to provide high quality educational opportunities to my child. If I do not agree to these terms, I may indicate so below and return the form to:

I do not agree to the terms contained herein:

Parent Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Name(s) and Date(s) of Birth:

Please return as soon as possible by:

1) scanning or taking a picture of the form and emailing it to eduservices@soledadusd.org

2) mailing to 1261 Metz Road, Soledad, CA 93960