

# Soledad Unified School District

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Javier Galvan, *President*  
Alfredo Flores, *Vice President*  
Jess Barreras, *Clerk*  
Monica Pantoja, *Trustee*  
Josie Perez-Aguilera, *Trustee*



## ADMINISTRATION

Timothy J. Vanoli  
*Superintendent*

Randy Bangs  
*Associate Superintendent of  
Educational Services*

1261 Metz Rd., Soledad, CA 93960

July 29, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On March 13, 2020 the Soledad Unified school District made the difficult decision to physically close our schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve to allow the healthcare system to adequately prepare.

For the past 4 months, our district leadership has monitored the situation, reviewed guidance for local and state agencies, and has implemented the best practices possible for both students and staff. With the assistance of teachers, classified staff, and administrators, we developed a guide to reopen our schools. We also conducted surveys for parents and staff in order to solicit feedback from our stakeholder groups.

On July 17, 2020, Governor Newsom announced that the California Department of Health had released updated Guidance for Schools and School Based Programs and he also set the metrics that all schools and county public health officials must use to determine whether to reopen schools to in-person instruction. This guidance addresses the wearing of face coverings, social distancing, increased hygiene practices and cleaning, as well as rules for student transportation and sports programming.

Monterey County was placed on the California County Monitoring List on July 2, 2020 and remains there as of today. On July 17, 2020 the California Department of Public Health Officials placed Monterey County on the COVID-19 County Data Monitoring Project Watch List. In response to elevated disease transmission; as indicated by Monterey County exceeding the 14-day case rate threshold of 100 cases per 100,000 residents, and by exceeding the state's threshold for percentage change in three-day average COVID-19 hospitalizations. As a result, Monterey County Schools must resume the 2020-21 school year in Distance Learning as they are unable to open for in-person instruction.

Last night the Board of Trustees approved the District Reopening of Schools Framework and Distance Learning Plan. As we begin the 2020-21 school year with Distance Learning Instruction, we are committed to supporting students and families in every way possible to ensure that Distance Learning is successful and that we meet the needs of our families.

Moving forward, we will continue to provide training and support for staff in Distance Learning instruction to better meet the needs of students. Students and parents will be provided training and support with Distance Learning. Principals will continue to plan for the safest possible reopening when appropriate. Students will be offered laptops and Wi-Fi as needed, and meal service will be available at each of our school sites.

Site Principals will be in contact with you regarding specific instructions for implementing Distance Learning Instruction as we prepare for the first day of school which is Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Vanoli, Superintendent