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ACSA Statement on facilities and district communications examples

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an immeasurable impact on California public education and Gov. Newsom has shown leadership and strength throughout this growing national crisis. ACSA supports the strategy to solely support distance learning modules for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year and close all California public school facilities, as it is a move to keep students and employees safe.

ACSA's top priority is supporting California's 6.2 million public school students and we believe the pivot to distance learning-only modules is what is best for students. We know this new strategy will be challenging for school leaders as we work to create and provide strong curriculum and, at the same time, address equity.

Many of our members have expected this decision to be made and over the past few weeks, we have seen district leaders increasing the commitment to supporting their school communities through free meals to students, child care and instruction. With the latest guidance from CDE on the expanded uses of Senate Bill 117 funding, that will continue whether students are learning at home or in a classroom.

The governor also announced a partnership with Google to provide mobile hotspots and Chromebooks to students in rural areas to facilitate distance learning. Specifically, Google will be donating 100,000 mobile hotspots with three months of free and unlimited high-speed internet connectivity to some students in rural areas, as well 4,000 Chromebooks. The California Department of Education will be distributing these resources, prioritizing rural communities.

ACSA looks forward to working with our local and statewide partners to make sure the learning continues through the spring and into the summer. As a service to our members, we have expanded the Distance Learning and Communications Sections of the ACSA Resource Hub with new content from California school districts. Go to content.acsa.org for those resources.

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