



Lowell Joint School District

A Tradition of Excellence Since 1906

"Home of Scholars and Champions"



August 7, 2020

Re: Prior Written Notice Regarding Your Child's Special Education Program for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Parent:

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. I write today to provide prior written notice regarding the instructional plans being made for the Lowell Joint School District (LJSD) special education students for the 2020-2021 school year.

In mid March 2020, LJSD determined that it was necessary to close its schools in order to prevent/contain the spread of COVID-19. This decision was made based on executive orders issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, as well as recommendations made by local, state, and federal public health and educational authorities. In particular, LJSD falls under the jurisdiction of both the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and Orange County Department of Public Health (OCDPH), and is subject to their health orders.

As the District begins the reopening process for the 2020-2021 school year, there remains significant health and safety concerns that will alter the manner in which we educate students. In this regard, we continue to stay in close contact with OCDPH and LACDPH, and will follow their guidance in making decisions to safely operate our schools. On July 17, 2020, California Governor, Gavin Newsom, released new guidance on the reopening of California schools. In that guidance, he specifically ordered that all schools in the counties on the State's COVID-19 monitoring list cannot resume in-person learning until specific local health criteria are met. Both Los Angeles and Orange County is on the State's monitoring list and as a result, the Lowell Joint School District is required to adhere to state, OCDPH and LACDPH health orders.

At this time, LJSD will open schools with all students participating in Distance Learning, including the delivery of Special Education and related services. Once this crisis resolves, our schools will return to more traditional operations. At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, your child's case carrier will contact you to discuss the instructional plan, services, assessments, and answer any questions you may have. Please be assured that this plan will only be in place during the COVID-19 crisis, and is necessary to protect your child's health and safety, as well as our students, staff, and the community at large. This health and safety determination has been made based on LJSD's review of orders, guidance, and

Superintendent of Schools: Jim Coombs

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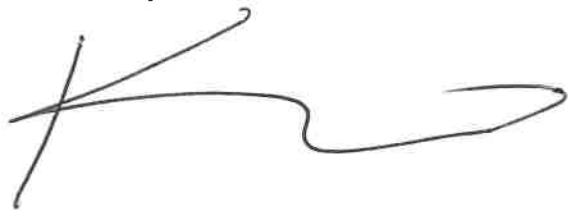
recommendations by OCDPH, LACDPH, Governor Gavin Newsom, and other local, state, and federal public health and educational authorities.

Additionally, we understand that you may have questions related to the instructional plan provided for your child, and LJSD wants to address any and all questions that you may have. Once you have spoken with your child's case carrier, please let him or her know if you would like to schedule a meeting to further discuss this plan. Additionally, please also know that should we begin implementing this plan and as concerns arise, LJSD can schedule an IEP team meeting to address any ongoing concerns, and/or the instructional plan can be adjusted with your input.

Finally, please be advised that as parents of a child with a disability, you have certain rights. To access a copy of LJSD's Notice of Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards please go to our webpage at www.LJSD.org. You can find the documents on the Special Education Department page. Should you be unable to access the website or wish for an additional copy of your parental rights and safeguards, please inform the District and we will provide you with a printed copy for your review.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (562) 902-4275 and/or Kigarta@ljsd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaleo Igarta', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kaleo Igarta
Director, Special Education
Lowell Joint School District

CC: Mr. Jim Coombs, Superintendent of Schools

Enclosure: Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards