

West Contra Costa USD

RESPOND - RECOVER - REINVENT

COVID-19 Funding Request

Updated July 21, 2020

Overview

West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) serves approximately 29,000 students in five cities. We are facing an unprecedented health and educational crisis in our community as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic. All of our public schools and district offices have been closed since March 13, 2020. During the week of July 13th, Contra Costa County was placed on the State’s watch list, ensuring that WCCUSD will open under distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year. On July 17th, Governor Newsom released updated Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs from the California Department of Public Health and also set the metrics that schools should use to determine whether to return to in-person instruction. You can find the Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs at the COVID-19 website at [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov). At this time, WCCUSD is planning for 100% distance learning until at least October 1st, with the looming reality that we will be in distance learning for the entire first semester and perhaps beyond. WCCUSD has developed a “hub model” approach to ensure students most at risk of falling behind during distance learning will have access to in person supports. You can find more information about this model [here](#).

WCCUSD Student Demographics	
Total Students	29,000
English Learners	9,967
Low Income	20,310
Special Education	4217
Homeless	802
Foster Youth	115

As a full service community school district, we recognize our schools as hubs of opportunity and the heart of our community and we value all-level partnerships and collaboration to meet the needs of our students and their families. As such, we are committed to doing all we can to

provide full continuity of education services during this challenging and uncertain time. What is clear is that WCCUSD will need to provide significant additional services to our students to ensure their success in Distance Learning 2.0 and their transition back into school.

As in most crisis, however, our current needs outweigh our resources in the following areas:

DISTANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING: \$6,485,000

ENSURING CLEAN AND SAFE FACILITIES: \$975,000

COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY: \$163,500

SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING & TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES: \$1,220,000

TOTAL REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$8,843,500

In partnership with the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund, we have prepared this funding request. Our goal is to continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis on behalf of all public school students and our community. We anticipate that this interruption of school, work, and daily life will continue to have a dire impact on all, particularly those who are most vulnerable, including our low income, homeless, and foster youth.

Goals

1. **DISTANCE LEARNING 2.0:** During Distance Learning 2.0, we must demonstrate to our students and families that we have moved beyond our Spring prototypes and are ready to deliver a high quality education to each student. Through new distance learning mandates from the State, WCCUSD must ensure that our students are actively engaged each day, that social and mental health needs are met, students are able to have access to content materials, and that each student has a device and internet access.

Due to our 1:1 initiative in grades 2-12, the vast majority of our students have access to district-issued Chromebooks at home. **Through our efforts this past Spring, we were able to provide 23,998 chrome books and 1,795 hotspots.** Through our Spring inventory work we know there is additional need and we are working vigorously to meet that need for additional devices and connectivity.

Activity	Required Resources	Funding Needed
Refresh half of our aging student Chromebook fleet for the 2021-22 school year so that secondary students have a robust learning tool.	Purchase 15,000 Chromebooks @ \$400 each	\$6,000,000

Provide internet hot spots to students currently without internet access	Purchase at least 1,000 additional hot spots to students as needed (and if needed, to any teacher without home access)	\$300,000
Supplies for at-home, shelter, and group home learning	Paper and toner for creating at-home learning packets for students	\$25,000
	School supplies such as pencils/pens, binder/graphing paper, etc to support at-home learning packets for sheltered and low income families	\$10,000
Mailing work packets and supplies to students	Postage and printing costs	\$30,000
Licenses for distance learning websites	Many online learning resources were free in the spring, and now require fees	\$75,000
Professional Development for Teachers	Teacher training on effective DL practices	\$50,000
Total		\$6,485,000

2. **ENSURING CLEAN & SAFE FACILITIES:** [Guidelines from the State of California](#) along with the County Department of Public Health have finally begun to clarify the requirements for reopening. WCCUSD has worked diligently to create a reopening plan that prioritizes equity and phase students into school through our “[hub model](#).” When Contra Costa County is removed from the watch list and we begin to allow students back on campus, we must provide learning spaces and district facilities that meet the rigorous health and safety standards that provide the requisite assurances and protection for our stakeholders.

To this end, there is a need to ensure all staff and students are provided essential PPE, increase custodial operations at all district buildings, equip schools, classrooms, and restrooms with needed hygiene items and cleaning supplies, purchase needed sanitation

equipment, improved ventilation, and ensure that deep cleaning takes place. With certain areas in our sites still currently being used for food distribution, there is still a need for maintenance, cleaning, and sanitation. With the state directive that all employees would still receive anticipated wages, essential labor that is currently taking place is incurring extra cost.

Activity	Required Resources	Funding Needed
Ensure access to hygiene supplies in restrooms, classrooms, and offices	Hand sanitizer, masks, paper towels, tissues and soap	\$75,000
Ensure all students & staff have essential PPE	Face masks, face shields, gloves	\$900,000
Total		\$975,000

3. **COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY:** During these uncertain times, it is crucial to communicate with our families on a regular basis. From the onset of this crisis, WCCUSD has made an unparalleled effort to engage our community. For example, to create our reopening plan, we engaged:
- 53 Taskforce members (stakeholder groups)
 - 98 Subcommittee members (included parent & students)
 - Surveys of students (3,300 responses)
 - Surveys of parents (7,197 responses)
 - Surveys of staff (957 responses)
 - 94 focus groups
 - 3,000+ participants in town hall

No other district went to the lengths of WCCUSD to engage stakeholders to this extent. These efforts, along with the WCCUSD Rapid Relief Fund, have begun to transform the relationship between the district and community. As this crisis continues to unfold, we intend to build on these efforts. To do this, we seek additional resources to support our staffing and acquire new tools/Apps to continue this work.

Activity	Required Resources	Funding Needed
Translate information	Translate school closure-related communication into as many languages spoken by our families	\$7,500

Publish communication media and related mailing	Flyers, postcards, etc. to reach families without on-line access and associated mailing costs	\$30,000
Strategic Communications Consulting	Effectively navigate back and forth through phases of opening/closing	\$40,000
Continue community engagement efforts throughout phases of reopening	Utilize new Apps/Tools (e.g. ThoughtExchange, YouthTruth, Remind) for family/student engagement throughout distance learning	\$86,000
Total		\$163,500

4. **SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING & TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES:**

Due to school closures and Covid-19, we anticipate students' return to school will be particularly challenging. WCCUSD will need to operate on the assumption that everyone, (students, caregivers, and staff) will have experienced some degree of anxiety and stress, uncertainty, illness, grief and loss. Some will have been ill themselves, some will be grieving a relative or friend who died. Some will have experienced hunger, abuse, neglect, evictions, domestic violence and/or community violence.

For some students, the experience of social distancing and being home during COVID-19 will have been traumatic. WCCUSD will need to prepare our schools for an increased number of learning, behavioral and emotional challenges, from more students. For students already impacted by trauma and social and emotional challenges, these could be exacerbated. Existing disparities also will be more pronounced. Stressors from the transition back are likely to intensify and may impact learning and teaching.

Through our engagement with families, faculty and students, it is clear that we need to provide additional training to our staff and continue to partner with key agencies to meet these mental health needs.

Activity	Required Resources	Funding Needed
Professional development for teachers	Teacher training on Culture & Climate, Trauma Informed Practices, SEL, Mental Health	\$150,000
Mental health screenings for	Individual student mental	\$500,000

students	health screenings for students as they physically return to school	
Mental health services for students	Additional capacity through community partnerships & school based health centers	\$420,000
Implement PBIS structure for online platform	Develop online SEL supports across WCCUSD DL offerings	\$75,000
Training for “Hub Site” workers (school day & after school) to meet student needs	Curriculum & training across after school organizations and classified staff on Culture & Climate, Trauma Informed Practices, Mental Health	\$75,000
Total		\$1,220,000

SUPPORT THE COVID-19 RAPID RELIEF FUND FOR WEST CONTRA COSTA STUDENTS & SCHOOLS

For questions about or help making a contribution to the COVID-19 School Closure Fund for WCCUSD Kids and Schools, please contact Robert Bunce, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund: robert@edfundwest.org.

Please direct all donations to the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund. The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund is a nonprofit organization, Tax ID #68-0005307. All donations will be held within a COVID-19 general fund unless funds are earmarked to a specific funding need.

Donations can be made, [online](#) or by sending a check, payable to “*The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund, memo: COVID-19 School Closure Fund*” to 217C West Richmond Ave, Richmond, CA 94801.