With the health and safety of our students, educators, and all our families as our top priority, the Huntington Beach Union High School District Educators Association (DEA) supports the closing of the public schools in the Huntington Beach Union High School District to support the containment of the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). DEA supports the closing of our local feeder middle and elementary schools as well.

DEA is grateful to our community, families, and students for their patience and their perseverance in this very difficult situation. We understand that our learners have not chosen distance learning; this new form of education is the amazing product of teachers and learners working in “crisis mode” to do everything possible to continue our work.

Crisis and emergency mode is hard. Knowing that students benefit from some normalcy in times of uncertainty, it was important to begin distance learning as soon as reasonably possible. However, directives from the State, County, and local agencies designed to ensure that all students shared the same access to and success with distance learning have been released quickly and then revised quickly again and again the past few weeks. These revisions have required patience and planning rather than immediate action, especially in regards to ensuring that all students can equitably access their curricula. DEA understands this has required teachers, families, and students to extend grace, be flexible, and help each other work through the frustration that comes with instability and rapid changes, and we remain committed to continuing to work through this together with the community.

DEA is profoundly aware that our community is struggling right now. All of the members of our education community are sympathetic to the needs of students and families. We are doing everything we can to address each situation with compassion and kindness. For this reason, we are committed to providing students with opportunities to practice their academic skills while receiving feedback; however, as each student’s experience during the statewide emergency is different, and because student access to the curriculum and equity in the learning process are high priorities for us, we will practice “hold harmless” grading, in alignment with the recommendations from the California Department of Education and policies being established by districts throughout the state.

DEA is committed to working with the HBUHSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Harwick to support and protect our students and teachers as we endeavor to continue providing the very best educational experience possible, given the challenges posed by the unexpected shift to distance learning necessitated by the school closures.
DEA supports the efforts of the California Teachers Association, the California Department of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, and Governor Gavin Newsom to support public schools and the Framework for Labor Management Collaboration reached between teachers, classified employees, school boards, superintendents, and principals. “While schools might be physically closed, class is still in session,” said Governor Newsom. “This agreement is good news for students and parents, and the announcement means that more California kids will have tools to learn from home during this crisis.”

Finally, DEA agrees with the following ideas and sentiments expressed by E. Toby Boyd, president of the California Teachers Association:
“The health and safety of our students, educators and all their families are our top priority as we grapple with this rapidly changing situation and the spread of COVID-19. We know these are not easy decisions and there are many ramifications.”

“It is our collective responsibility to do our part to minimize the spread of this disease. Each one of our actions, whether proactive or careless, will affect those around us, especially the elderly and those among us with underlying health conditions. Please take the necessary steps to become familiar with the preventative measures such as effective health and safety practices. We owe it to each other.”

Together we will weather this crisis, and DEA looks forward to those better days that are surely ahead.

Thank you again to all members of our community. We appreciate everyone’s patience and flexibility in all matters, especially those connected to emergency distance learning.

Expect this website to be updated as further developments occur.

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