



# SOUTH COAST

## EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

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Dear Parents,

Hello! I hope you are all doing as well as you can this week. I want you all to know that you are doing an **AMAZING** job right now. You are not the only one who is facing struggles with their kids at home right now. I know you all are doing the best you can, even if it doesn't feel like it some days. Please know that we all are having our own struggles right now, and you are not alone.

I hope you have been able to start using some of the items that we have delivered to your home. Please know, we understand this is difficult, **and we do not expect that all the work being sent home will be completed.** As we begin to make this transition into the home being the new learning environment, we also have to remember that often times for our students, home is not the place they do "school." We want you to remember that you can reach out to your student's case manager, or our main ESD office, anytime you have questions or concerns about the work/material you are receiving.

This week, we have focused on getting systems running smoothly to ensure the delivery of materials to you on Fridays. As well, we have been working finding some ways that we can have direct interaction with you and your student(s). We would like to start trying to use two virtual tools this week to start making these connections: Zoom and Marco Polo.

Zoom is a virtual meeting platform where we can engage with others in real time. We have been using this platform to hold IEP meetings since the closure. It is a web-based tool that you can use on any tablet, computer, or phone. We would like to start having case managers use Zoom to get students together in one space at the same time. The staff have been coming up with ideas of how they might be able to use this tool to set up engagement time with you and your student.

Marco Polo is an app that you download to your phone. It is used like a texting app, but with a video. It would allow staff to send messages to you and your student and you can have a conversation through video messaging. Staff have also been coming up with different ways to use this tool to deliver instruction and interact with you and your student.

As we have found that these two tools can be used as a resource, they also are not 100% FERPA and HIPAA compliant. This means that there is not a guarantee that your student's information can maintain 100% confidentiality. While we know this, we also know that there are many steps we can take to maximize the security features in the tools. I have included with this letter a waiver for you to review that further explains how we will begin to use these platforms. If you would like your student to be a part of using these tools, you can let us know by doing one of the following:

- Complete the information on the bottom of the enclosed waiver and send back in the stamped envelope included, or
- Use your phone to take a picture of the QR code on the waiver and complete the online digital form.

We will keep a database of all the families that want to participate and we will start creating groups to get students, staff, and parents connected in a more virtual way. If you do not wish to have your student participate

with these tools **that is okay as well**. You are not required to have your student participate in this, nor will your student miss out on anything because of it.

In addition, we have had staff that are making You Tube videos and we have developed a life skills You Tube channel for you to access with your student. We will have the link to this on our ESD web page under the student resources tab. If you have trouble accessing this, please reach out to your student's case manager or our main office and we will help you to obtain access.

I hope that some of these tools will help our students reconnect with their school staff that they are missing. Additionally, it can help us to get them together with other students and their friends. Please keep up the amazing work you are doing with your family. If there are ways that we can help, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Take care,



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