

MOUNTAIN UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office
Montgomery Creek School
P.O. Box 368
30365 Highway 299



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Montgomery Creek, CA 96065

April 3, 2020

Via Email and Website Posting

Re: Prior Written Notice regarding Special Education Services during School Closure

Dear Parent(s):

I am writing to address the current situation within the district due to COVID-19. Along with student learning, student health and safety are top priorities for our District. This letter is meant to serve as notice regarding the school closure ordered by the Mountain Union Elementary School District (“District”) and is provided in accordance with Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations, section 300.503.

Description and Explanation of the Actions Proposed or Refused by District

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the District is taking all necessary precautions not to spread the virus. As you have likely heard, the District has closed its school, effective March 17, 2020. It is currently anticipated that school will reopen sometime after May 1, 2020 although that is dependent on a rapidly developing and changing situation.

We know that school closure is concerning, especially for our students with exceptional needs, and want to ensure you that we have your child’s education and safety at the forefront of all decisions being made and actions being taken. At this time, the District is not providing any formal educational services during the school closure. School site and teachers have created enrichment activities for all students, including activities for students with disabilities and are available for pick up. In addition, the District has provided access to a Chromebook and as well as lists of educational resources for all students to participate in from home. Montgomery Creek School will continue to be in contact with you via School Messenger as well as other platforms. The District is working to create a comprehensive instructional plan should we stay closed past the date of May 1, 2020. If you require assistance in getting access to any of the instructional tools provided, please inform the District immediately and we will work with you to provide access.

We acknowledge the impact of this and the additional challenges it creates and regret the need to make this decision in the wake of this pandemic.

Evaluation procedures, assessments, records and/or reports used as a basis for the District’s proposed and/or refused actions, Description of Options Considered by the District, and Description of Other Information Relevant to the District’s Decision

The school closure has been required based on the COVID-19 pandemic, health and safety concerns, and necessity given the District’s need to provide a safe learning environment for students and a safe working environment for staff. It is this necessity at the basis of the very

serious decision to temporarily close our schools. Due to this necessity, and taking into account all of the District's legal obligations, we do not believe there are other viable options available at this point in time.

If our school is required to stay closed longer than the current scheduled break up until May 1, 2020, the District will provide you with updated information regarding instruction, special education services, assessment progress and IEP timelines. Once we return to regular instruction, District staff will closely monitor your child's skills and performance, to confirm whether or not there are any concerns with educational progress or regression due to the school closure. If there are any such concerns, District staff will notify you, and if necessary, will convene an IEP meeting to discuss your child's individual needs.

Notice of Parental Rights, Procedural Safeguards, and Resources

The District acknowledges your right to make informed decisions regarding your child's education. Accordingly, I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the rights and procedural safeguards under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"). The District takes these rights seriously, so please feel free to contact my office if you would like to schedule a time to meet with me to address any concerns you may have regarding this letter. You may also contact the following agencies to obtain assistance in understanding your parental rights:

California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 2401
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Shasta County SELPA
Sharon Hjella – SELPA Director
1524 Magnolia Ave.
Redding, CA 96001

As updates are made available to the District, we will stay in communication with you as promptly as possible.

Sincerely,

Clay Ross- Special Education Director