

SSDA COVID-19 Update 6
March 19, 2020

Today's Quote: "Courage is the capacity to confront what can be imagined." Leo Rosten

SSDA: What's Brand New

1. Every update will have a quick welcome video from Tim as Executive Director. [Here is a link to today's message.](#)
2. **SSDA Podcasts will begin on Monday, March 23rd.** Our first podcast is an interview with Jack O'Connell, former State Superintendent. We will discuss his input on dealing with a crisis as he did as Assemblyman and then State Superintendent in our last crisis: 9-11 and the Great Recession after. His legislative and education leadership will provide you with an informative, inspirational and insightful podcast.
3. **SSDA will provide you with "Great Ideas from Schools During COVID-19."** This will be fun and cool ideas being created by teachers, administrators, parents and community for you to steal.
4. In fact, SSDA is going to take one of those ideas and have you join us: **SSDA Spirt Week -- March 23-27.** We encourage you to join in on the fun as members! More info to come!

Leadership:

[Here is a link to a video I put together for you about leading in a time of a catastrophe.](#) Hope it helps you and your team.

I also want to add today some tips during this restore phase for you to understand:

1. **You personally will not have a lot of time for your health and well-being during Restore Stage.** You will log on 10-14 hours, seven days a week. This restore stage lasts about two to three weeks—it will be very hard on you. Know that and let your loved ones know that.
2. **You will see amazing heroes right from the beginning.** There will be a lot of energy, innovation, love, support and Gandhi-like moments from your people. As the leader—love those moments and prepare that your people will begin to tire, face trauma, anxiety and burnout. Your job is to provide resources and a culture to allow people to have their moments. Prepare for that now.
3. **Imperative you have a frank talk to each board about strong leadership and standing up to unions, community members and staff** who aren't aligned to educating and helping students and families during this pandemic. Board members took an [oath of office](#) to uphold the US and State Constitution. It is time they reread that oath of office and step up. Your board members will be losing jobs, businesses or their families will. They need to let the community know that the children need our focus solely on helping and educating them.

State Update:

1. **Collective Bargaining issues** and challenges are at the forefront with school districts throughout California. Capital Advisors is working with labor today and we will talk to Governor's office tonight about negotiations and the demands labor is putting on staff. SSDA will update you in tomorrow's update about the latest. Hang in there!!!
2. More counties are closing all schools through mid April to early May. SSDA is encouraging the state to standardize the closure dates as 37 other states have done.

3. College Graduations are being cancelled throughout California. Most colleges are now fully online through the end of the year. SSDA expects K-12 systems to follow shortly with announcements around graduations and distance learning school districts very soon.

Federal Update:

1. This [John Hopkins Website](#) is sobering but will remind you how serious this pandemic is and gives you the latest data. Forward to anyone who thinks it is still a hoax.
2. The federal update today provides a lot of information about human resources including employee sick leave, paid family leave and tax credits:
 - Requires all government employers and private employers with fewer than 500 employees to offer two weeks of paid leave to employees (see Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, below),
 - Offers 12 weeks of paid leave to employees whose children's schools or childcare providers have closed (see Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, below),
 - Increases funding for food assistance programs,
 - Expands unemployment insurance, and
 - Guarantees free coronavirus testing even for the uninsured
 - The President's Press Conferences have really improved and now involve experts to update us. They are usually on mid-morning—if you have time.

Wishing you much safety and health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy J. Taylor".

Tim Taylor
SSDA Executive Director