

COVID-19 Operations Written Report for Alpha Charter School

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone	Date of Adoption
Alpha Charter School	Michael Borgaard, Ed.D., Superintendent	mborgaard@ejesd.net_ (916) 991-2244	June 9, 2020

Descriptions provided should include sufficient detail yet be sufficiently succinct to promote a broader understanding of the changes your LEA has put in place. LEAs are strongly encouraged to provide descriptions that do not exceed 300 words.

Provide an overview explaining the changes to program offerings that the LEA has made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency and the major impacts of the closures on students and families.

When stay-at-home orders were put into place, staff met and immediately began planning for distance learning. Teachers and Facilitators committed to personally contacting each student and their families to develop a plan of success. Alpha Charter High School students continued their enrollment in GradPoint and received ongoing support with their classes. Students with limited access to technology were provided laptops by the district. Students continued to earn credits, and all seniors who were on track to graduate in June did so.

For elementary grade students, instruction was delivered by a variety of means, including the use of technology, instructional packets (which were made available in-person on Fridays, the district web site, by traditional mail, or as e-mail attachments. In addition to the established methods of contacting students, home visits were often made. Our staff was committed to serving our students by whatever means necessary. We had 100% participation from our teaching staff, and over 90% overall from with our students and families.

The district also understood that there were addition stresses to students and their families. Our Behavioral Support team provided fun and enriching videos for students and their families. The focus was on anti-bullying training, the acquisition of social and emotional skills, and the challenges and stresses that students face during stay-at-home orders and distance learning.

Special Education services continued, with as many services that were permitted to be delivered via distance learning being offered. Speech therapy proved to be one of the most successful examples of the continuation of SPED services. IEP meetings via telephone or Zoom continued as scheduled.

Provide a description of how the LEA is meeting the needs of its English learners, foster youth and low-income students.

Alpha Charter School serves students from low-income, English Learner and Foster Youth populations, providing increased services to these students.

During the traditional school year, the district provides a variety of learning supports including differentiated instruction and interventions for all students as needed. There are classroom-only instructional aides to assist in engaging and supporting small groups while teachers facilitate small-group instruction.

These services have been ongoing when practicable through distance learning. Zoom meetings and work packets have been the primary means that teachers have used to meet the needs of students while students, teachers, and instructional aides are working from home.

Our EL team has integrated their services in partnership with the assignments students receive from their classroom teachers, and provide support if needed through the lessons that they are already assigned. EL students are encouraged to write freely in their journals to let the thinking flow and not lose the writing skills. During distance learning, writing language is not emphasized but rather that students continue to develop their thoughts and ideas.

District EL staff has been collaborating with the Sacramento County Office of Education to develop strategies for using test scores this year due to the move to distance learning. There have been numerous trainings and webinars dedicated to addressing the close of the current school year and what will happen the following year. There remains a degree of uncertainty moving forward.

In summary, the current ELL population district-wide, including Alpha Charter School, includes 40 students receiving EL services and 32 EL students that have been reclassified previous years and are closely monitored for their success. All testing was completed and eligible students were re-classified prior to the last day of classroom-based instruction on March 13, 2020.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities.

During distance learning, Alpha Charter School has been committed to providing a variety of learning supports including differentiated instruction and interventions for all students as needed. Zoom meetings and GradPoint have been the primary means that teachers have used to meet the needs of students while students, teachers, and instructional aides are working from home. Specifically, emphasis was placed on providing rigorous instruction and Intervention for ELA and Mathematics. Distance learning provided additional engagement and support for small group and individualized instruction. The EL team has integrated their services in partnership with the assignments students receive from their classroom teachers, and provide support if needed through the lessons that they are already assigned.

During distance learning the district strived to provide standards-aligned curriculum, assessments, and high-quality instruction. Teachers were encouraged to participate in professional development to better support implementation of the Common Core, and materials aligned to the Common Core using technology and individualized learning packets. There remained an ongoing commitment to provide a variety of learning supports including differentiated instruction and interventions for all students as needed.

During distance learning, teachers and students continued to utilize standards-aligned curriculum, assessments, and high-quality instruction.

The PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) team also interacted with students through distance learning, providing anti-bullying training, and on the acquisition of social and emotional skills. An emphasis was placed on the challenges and stresses that students face during stay-at-home orders and distance learning.

Teachers and staff were on hand each Friday for packet pick-up and drop-off. The district distributed Chromebooks to students who needed the technology at home.

Every effort was made for the two goals articulated the current LCAP to be continued (Goal 1: Increased achievement in ELA/Writing and Mathematics to close achievement gap; Goal 2: Safer Schools).

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to provide school meals while maintaining social distancing practices.

When stay-at-home orders were put into place, our cafeteria staff began providing “Grab and Go” lunches. These began the first week that school was cancelled, and will continue until the last day of the regular school calendar (June 10, 2020). Families were informed of the availability of these lunches through our website, our weekly contacts with students and teachers, as through telephone messages and text messages. The district worked closely with our nutrition program providers to ensure that our lunches meet necessary requirements.

We have averaged approximately 10% participation Mondays through Thursdays. On Fridays that number has consistently been at approximately 33%. Our district serves a mostly rural setting. We attribute the higher percentage of participation on Fridays to our weekly schoolwork packet pick-up that takes place each Friday, as well as families anticipating greater needs on the weekend.

“Grab and Go” lunches have also been provided to a number of non-district children who make their way to our school.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

Alpha Charter School is a vital part of the Elverta Elementary School District. The district houses the Little Eagles Preschool and Childcare at Elverta Elementary School. During the stay-at-home order, three additional classroom spaces were provided at the request of Little Eagles. Additionally, all rent paid by Little Eagles was suspended through the stay-at-home order and through the summer, to assist Little Eagles as they staffed and served additional children in the community.

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