



4 April 2020

To the WCCUSD School Board, Superintendents, Students, and Families.

We hope you are well and are staying safe. Please know you and other district leaders are in our thoughts and prayers. All of our leadership skills are being put to the test during these unprecedented times at the immense responsibilities and difficult decisions that are before us. As “*essential*” services are determined, please remember our African American Students. We are becoming increasingly alarmed that our students’ learning environments are not fully supported. The digital divide often widens at the front doors of our African American families; the provision of online learning can often be biased which creates harm and makes learning inaccessible. Often parents lack the skills to monitor progress and ensure their children’s full participation. Without a clear and present plan in place to address these concerns the wider that gap becomes.

Because of the impersonal nature of digital platforms, it is especially important that we maintain a culturally rich and equity driven lens in choosing programs for our children. They are already challenged to engage with school curricula that is often biased against them. To have to engage digitally daily with biased materials will have a devastating impact on them, and potentially significantly reduce their already compromised futures. All of our choices must be on reducing the academic disparities while increasing equity and providing access with current, relevant and engaging materials.

Because the digital divide does widen at our front doors, we are concerned that our children may not gain access to the technology and services they will need to succeed. Our parents will need training as well to be able to support their children’s elearning. We are thankful that food distribution was broadened to include Black churches and organizations. We want the same thoughtful and directed support in our communities for internet access, up to date working computers, as well as support for direct services for our children with special needs.

Because of the urgency of our situation we recommend the following services be put in place and that our current PAAASS budget unencumbered line items be reallocated to address these needs.

Please find attached our recommended budget for these services for your consideration and immediate implementation.

Respectfully Submitted,
African American Site Advisory Team, Executive Officers