

COVID-19 Operations Written Report

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone	Date of Adoption
Ballard Elementary School District	Allan Pelletier	(805) 688-4812	June 25, 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.

Ballard Elementary students transitioned to distance learning due to school closures that began on Monday, March 16, 2020. Students participated in live learning opportunities (via Zoom) and extension activities that students completed independently and/or with parent support. All students who had a need were able to utilize district-provided technology. The primary focus during distance learning was to master the ELA and Math Common Core State Standards; the secondary focus was to master the Science and Social Studies Standards. Specialists provided instruction in music and physical education. Support for English Language Learners continued, as did work on Individualized Education Plan goals. Support was provided to students by classroom teachers, an intervention teacher, special education teachers, instructional assistants, and music and physical education specialists.

Though our model was successful considering the circumstances, it proved difficult for many students, parents, and staff members. Academically, it was a challenge to serve students through distance learning as effectively as during normal school operations. Students needed to collaborate and interact with teachers and peers, and this difficult during distance learning. Although classroom social experiences were provided, students did not gain as much social and emotional experience as they would have at school. Parents helped their children learn while also (in many cases) performing the functions of their job. Some school staff members also needed to balance their work and home responsibilities.

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

All Ballard students, including English learners, foster youth, and low-income students, had access to high-quality distance learning opportunities.

English learners continued to receive direct instruction through English Language Development and intervention. Individual and small group support was provided via Zoom, and occasionally in person.

Ballard currently has no identified foster youth.

Ballard continued to provide supports to students in need. These services depended on the student's individual needs and included support in reading and math from an intervention specialist. Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) were supported by a mild/moderate teacher, speech/language teacher, and an adaptive physical education teacher. IEP meetings were held remotely via Zoom during distance learning.

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

Ballard School District teachers delivered high-quality distance learning opportunities to their students by maintaining personal and individualized contact with each child. Teachers quickly adapted to the use of technology for imparting instruction, blended the educational activities, and assessed and provided feedback to each student. Teachers effectively utilized platforms such as Zoom Conferencing, Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Class Dojo and Screen Castify to impart instruction. Many teachers created sites to consolidate classroom activities into one location for easy access by students and families.

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

The Ballard School District does not have a food service program. Students bring their lunches to school daily. During the COVID-19 emergency the district did not provide meals to students or families. Although, the district does not have any families receiving free and reduced meals, the district worked in partnership with neighboring districts and organizations from across Santa Barbara County to provide meals for families in need.

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

The Ballard School District does not provide before/after care on campus. During the COVID-19 emergency the district worked in partnership with neighboring districts and organizations from across Santa Barbara County. Currently, programs exist (and still have spaces available) for families of first responders who require childcare.