

## **Union Notes – July 13, 2020**

### **SDEA Statement on District Announcement**

Today our school district, along with the Los Angeles Unified School District, announced that due to skyrocketing COVID-19 infection rates the new school year will start online only. Both districts will continue planning for a return to in-person learning during the 2020-21 academic year, as soon as public health conditions allow. This was the right decision and one that will save lives. Science, not politics, must drive the decision-making on when it is safe to reopen schools.

No one wants to return to in-person instruction more than we do. We've all seen firsthand how this pandemic has revealed and widened inequities, especially for students of color, those with disabilities, and those living in poverty. We want to get back and we will get back to school when it is safe to do so.

Educators and parents also recognize that distance learning must be an improvement over the crisis teaching and learning we experienced in the spring. We must take this time now to continue to develop a more structured, equitable and robust system of distance learning and are fully committed to doing so.

We must also continue to fight for the resources and support we need from the federal government not just for our schools and students but also for our communities.

### **Questions about District Survey for Certificated Staff**

Members have asked about the District's survey to certificated staff. The decision to return to online only learning doesn't impact the District's need to plan for an eventual safe reopening of schools. SDEA recommends that members complete the survey. With regard to the accommodation questions in the survey, our legal counsel has confirmed that responding to a survey of this nature does not constitute a request for an accommodation. Members can respond to the accommodation questions as it will assist with the District's planning for this upcoming school year.

Together we are stronger!