



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Monique Limón

DISTRICT 37

Q&A on the Upcoming School Year with Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond

Panelists:

- Assemblymember Limón
- Sen Jackson
- Congressman Carbajal
- Superintendent Tony Thurmond

Asm Limón:

- Welcome: Additional Guests
- Dr. Susan Salcido-County Superintendent of public schools, Santa Barbara
- Stan Mann-County of Superintendent of public schools, Ventura
- Casey Harris- CA Federation of teacher's representative
- Karen McBride- president Sb teachers Association
- Mary Galvon- Dir. of operations

Congressman Salud Carbajal comments:

- Welcome
- What is going to happen to the kids for online learning?
- Challenges are access to broadband, digital learning, and challenges to education for children with special needs
- Working to provide crucial support need for accessible and affordable childcare
- The house voted for two important childcare bills HR 7027 and HR 7327
- Which would create a 50 billion funding to provide childcare providers and additional funding for social service block grant and childcare development fund for essential workers who need immediate action to childcare.
- In March the Bipartisan CARES ACT was signed into law, which allocated 13.2 billion dollars for k-12 schools and in housed students
- In May, the house passed the HEROES ACT, which passed 915 billion in emergency funding
- Understanding the economic impact the COVID 19 has had on the state

Superintendent Salcido remarks

- Welcome
- Any form of reopening has such deep cutting and reverberating impacts on all communities.
- Students, teachers and parents.
- A dedicated liaison from Santa Barbara public health who gives information regarding public schools etc.



- What are the guiding principles to re-open?
- The guiding principles have been the health and safety of our students, staff and community
- Thank you to the Community for being here and listening.

Superintendent Mantu remarks:

- Public education system is critical to our future not just our nation our society and world.
- Number one priority is the Safety and wellbeing of our kids is the most important
- Thank you to our Legislators and Superintendent Thurmond for all that you have done and will do.
- Ventura County had to reach a difficult decision in opening and using distance learning.
- We value our teachers highly, having the teachers return to the classroom and bring their kids.
- This is being streamed live on Facebook.
- You can also receive this in Spanish as well on Assemblymember Monique Limón's website as well.

Sup Tony Thurmond remarks:

- Gracias Mi Amiga, it is a pleasure to be on with all of you
- Thank you Assemblymember Limon for bringing counseling programs to our schools and Sen HBJ
- Thank you for the CARES act, we have been providing 5000 meals at 5000 sights
- It has been important to have the resources that have been provided.
- Looking forward to hearing from everyone.
- This is one of the greatest challenges we have experienced. How to deal with the Pandemic we need stick together in order for our students, parents and legislators stay safe. How can we make sure our children will be safe?
- About 96 % of our schools in California have made the decision to open to distant learning we will continue to monitor the conditions until it's safe to reopen.
- Students benefit when they have that one to one contact even special needs students.
- This is what is best for the social learning for our students. We need to keep them safe until we can open our campuses. Some schools will have a waiver for schools to have some students on campus.
- There may be substitute teachers and staff so they can try to promote social distancing.
- Our Legislators provided a budget for the schools to have personal protective equipment
- We get all our revenue from our economy. Sales tax income tax so without those dollars it is difficult for the schools to have everything they need.
- There is still work to do. Some students do not have personal devices for their online learning I created a task force to close that gap. We have commitment from internet service providers to provide low cost or free service anywhere in the state where internet is available.



- You do not have to give your social security number, if anyone asks you for that you tell them your state superintendent negotiated these terms and you do not have to provide that information.
- We know parts of our states who do not even have access to internet. That is what we are doing to close the gap on digital divide.
- As we prepare to move into distance learning, we have to be learning.
- 5.2 billion dollars to use for distance learning to support professional development and distance learning for the students.
- There are tough times and we will make it together.

Q&A

Q. What do you see in the role of public schools in supporting equity for all our community?

A. Equity is key as a descendent of slaves from panama the ability to get a quality of education. Consistency in education and teachers who never gave up. Equity continues to be paramount.

Q: Our budget may have been decimated but our problems and challenges persist. We have to continue to talk about education.

A. In terms of the equity all students getting access and opportunity for success. One has to do with technology and connectivity. We need to have devices, hot spots are very hard. In terms of all students and ones with IEPS, most parents wanted to pause on this. Now we are trying to make sure we can serve all students with special needs especially remotely we are working on creative approaches. There is a real need for student's especially foster youth, homeless, blind, and deaf.

Q. How can we build social interactions critical for our teens during COVID?

A. During the pandemic we have witnessed increase rates of suicide and depression. A group called the Alliance that helps with student's resources and flexibility for our families. This is to fill in the gaps and students get the support they need. We are working with teacher groups to help come up with best practices.

It is important for the students to develop emotionally. As we are facing multiple challenges it is key to involve parents, stakeholders etc.

Representing Charter school's parents have many concerns. Teens depend on us to work together and build connections to provide social and emotional support.

Q. What are the plans for students with special needs particularly those that are moderate to severe; it is difficult for these students?



A. There are students with IEPs in preschools; special education staff will serve students. We are still working on and towards having these available once schools open. We will provide services for these students as we can.

Special needs population the connection is to make sure we make contact and stay in contact with these students. Potentially opening smaller groups to serve these students. We will continue the assessments and help monitor where these students are.

Q. What kind of learning opportunities have districts participated in to prepare for teaching special education with the online format?

A. Since March the CA Department of Education has put on more than 60 webinars to support professional development for our educators. Every week at least one webinar was for special needs.

Some districts decided to not provide any services to these students, this is not ideal.

There are still some opportunities to have on campus instruction for students who really need it.

Q. Very interested in hearing how families can bridge the digital divide and instructional videos in Spanish in remote learning.

A. 60 Webinars served mostly English learners as well. More family engagement English learners, African Americans have been disconnected. Now we are working to build strong family engagements.

More webinars to support parents as well balancing jobs and student education as well.

Family engagement is a big part of what we need to see.

Q: I am extremely concerned with equity. Parents need free internet, in the spring parents were told to go sit in the parking lots to access internet.

A. The task force to close the digital divide is holding the service providers accountable so these families can access internet. The last count we probably distributed over 100, 00 computing devices. 150, 00 or more hotspots and that is not enough. We need 500 million dollars at minimum for all students to be able to use these devices. We are trying to match the state money and match students with computing devices.donatetech@cde.ca.gov