Welcome to the 20-21 school year! We’ve loved seeing so many of you at our Orientations, Chromebook return, and parent camps. We are excited to see our distance learning program expand from what we offered last spring. From increased live teaching to a focus on small group instruction, we look forward to seeing how we can all serve our students virtually.

We do, however, want to keep you informed of our efforts to try to bring some students back to campus for in-person services. Under current guidelines from Governor Newsom and our local public health agencies we are not allowed to serve any students on-campus except for drive-by material pick up. We know that certain functions are best performed in-person: from serving the developmental needs of our youngest Rocketeers, to building relationships with new students and new teachers, to conducting assessments that will allow us to understand how to best serve our Rocketeers.

In order to have the option and opportunity to engage in any of the above activities, we must apply for a waiver with our county board of education. Therefore, in order to provide the option for some in-person services, we are applying to the County Office of Health for a waiver. To be clear, this waiver is not to fully implement our 50% hybrid model. It merely grants our schools the flexibility to perform critical functions like building relationships, beginning of year assessments, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) evaluations as well as possibly recurring support for priority students such as students with disabilities, homeless and foster students, and students of essential workers. All these functions would be carried out while following all necessary health and safety guidelines around physical distancing, masks, intense regular cleaning, regular hand washing, utilization of pods, and multiple other layers of protection for our team and Rocketeers.

We do not have a timeline or process from the county about this approval, but we will update you as soon as we do. Although we as a network have applied for the waiver, we want to be clear that any implementation would be campus-specific. Based upon staffing capacity and interest in in-person instruction as well as the prioritization of students needs, each campus will determine which specific students will return, for what activities, and in what timeline. Each campus will have flexibility to slow the pace of implementation for their campus based upon staff availability and the success they have as they move through the stages of implementation.

Thank you so much for your partnership in serving your Rocketeer. This year is starting out very different than how many of us imagined or hoped. But no matter what comes our way, we will not weaken our resolve to ensure that we continue to strive to meet the needs of our Rocketeers and families so that the 2020-21 school year is another year full of learning, growth, community, and progress in our fight for social justice and educational equity.
Sincerely,

Maricela Guerrero,
Vice President of Schools

Kylie Alsofrom
Director of Schools, Bay Area
California Task Force Lead