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Alliance Shares Distance Learning Best Practices and Provides Social Services to Meet Instructional and Emotional Needs of All Scholars

Alliance, a nonprofit network of public charter schools, successfully launched Distance Learning programming and social services to more than 13,000 scholars in preparation for extended campus closures. Provides best practice tips to schools across California.

Los Angeles, CA, April 14, 2020—In an effort to minimize the effects of COVID-19 school closure on scholar success, Alliance College-Ready Public Schools (Alliance) prepared Distance Learning programming and resources in less than two weeks in order to launch on April 1, 2020. This included not only modified academic curricula, but access to meals, mental health services, and technology.

In the first week of Distance Learning, Alliance school attendance rates averaged 91%, with 10 schools achieving a 97% attendance rate or higher. Attendance is measured through a survey completed by each scholar, which not only accounts for their presence in school but their mental and physical well-being so that educators can request additional support services as needed.

“Our high attendance rates are the result of a commitment to provide each scholar with the proper technology, personalized outreach by staff to each family gauging Distance Learning preparedness, and the foundational principle of community established at Alliance during its founding 15 years ago,” explained Alliance Chief Academic Officer Ana Menezes.

In the spirit of community, Ms. Menezes shared [Alliance’s Distance Learning approach and best practices](#) with more than 70 school leaders during a webinar on March 31 hosted by the California Charter School Association (CCSA), a community of high-performing public charter schools in California. Alliance has also made several of its Distance Learning [resources](#) available to the public.

“As partners in public education,” said Ms. Menezes, *“we believe that collaboration both in and out of our organization is critical to the collective success of all students in California.”* Educators will continue to honor the collaborative spirit of Alliance while social distancing via network-wide Google Classroom teacher hubs created for most grades and subjects.



The Alliance Distance Learning model focuses on four main principles:

1. Consistency, including a learning routine that is flexible and accessible via an asynchronous approach to online teaching;
2. Connection, in which we prioritize relationships and individualized support through virtual teacher office hours and continued IEP support;
3. Compassion, given the unprecedented and uncertain challenges our community is facing;
4. Readiness, meaning our modified Distance Learning curricula focuses on preparing all scholars to matriculate to the next grade by re-teaching important content based on assessment data and prioritizing unfinished learning that remains for the school year.

According to Alliance CEO Dan Katzir, *“our families and scholars are facing even greater risks and disparities right now and we are vital to their academic, physical, and emotional well-being. This is both a tremendous responsibility and a tremendous privilege.”*

Such challenges include rises in unemployment, technology inequities, and housing and food insecurities that disproportionately affect the communities Alliance serves.

Given these unfortunate repercussions of the coronavirus outbreak, Alliance will continue to provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner to scholars through the end of the school year — 93% of whom qualify for the federal free and reduced price lunch program. From March 16 to April 10, 2020, Alliance has provided over 150,000 meals to scholars and families. Additionally, more than 550 WiFi hotspots have been delivered to families for use with their Alliance-issued devices to ensure that uninterrupted learning continues for each scholar.

Additionally, our college counseling will continue virtually as 1,800 seniors prepare to matriculate to college. And we have provided [multiple resources](#) to families regarding housing, clothing, employment, food, utilities, mental and physical health, and immigration resources amidst the global pandemic. These social service efforts are supported in part by the Alliance Foundation’s recently-launched [Together We Rise campaign](#) with a goal of \$2.4 million dollars.

About Alliance College-Ready Public Schools

Alliance College-Ready Public Schools was founded 15 years ago on the belief that all children—regardless of ZIP code, income, ability, or background—are capable of achieving at high levels. Alliance is one of the largest and most successful nonprofit public charter school networks in the nation, operating 28 high-performing, tuition-free middle and high schools in Los Angeles communities that are systemically oppressed. Alliance has a proven record of



success for our 13,000 scholars and 14,000 alumni, 97% of whom are scholars of color. Though 93% of our incoming 6th graders enter Alliance reading below grade level, they outperform California state and local districts on state standardized testing. Ninety-five percent of Alliance scholars have graduated from high school and been accepted to college, 73% to a four-year university. Our schools have been recognized among the best in the state and nation by the U.S. Department of Education, the California Department of Education, U.S. News & World Report, and the University of Southern California (USC) Rossier School of Education.

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