July 7, 2020

RE: Clarification on Distance Learning

Dear Parents,

This year has brought on a lot of challenges, especially for schools, students, and parents. As many schools are discussing and planning for a safe reopening, I understand that parents want to ensure the health and safety of their children. I’ve been hearing concerns from parents about schools’ plans for reopening and that there are some confusion surrounding policies for distance learning. Therefore, I want to provide some clarification.

Recently, the California State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 98, and Governor Newsom signed it into law on June 29, 2020. Assembly Bill (AB) 77 is the State Assembly’s counterpart to SB 98. In addition to making various appropriations and actions related to funding for K-12 schools, the bill specifically allows for distance learning, with minimum state standards, for any local education agency (LEA) working with a public health officer and upon family choice. Schools that provide an option for distance learning will not lose any funding under the bill. If you are aware of any LEA that is interpreting the distance learning provisions of the bill otherwise, you should ask that the LEA contact the Association of California School Administrators and the California Department of Education for guidance and clarification. The bill is not intended to discourage distance learning and withhold funding from schools that provide the option for distance learning.

Again, as conversations about distance learning continue to take place, it is very important that it is clear that schools can offer distance learning. Ensuring students’ health and academic success has always been a priority and will continue to be a priority as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Sincerely,

KANSEN CHU
Assemblymember, 25th District