

Wright ESD News (English)

Spring 2019

Community Update

Dear WESD Families - The Community Update is a quarterly publication of Wright School District. The newsletter is intended to keep families, residents and other stakeholders in touch with current District events and items of interest to all in our community. A school is so much more than a place to learn writing and arithmetic. Our mission is to prepare children academically and socially to function responsibly in society and to envision and achieve their goals in life. When this happens, all in the community benefit. The key here, is the word community. It takes all of us - parents, teachers, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, principals, office staff, custodians, classroom aids (this list could go on and on) - to achieve our mission! I encourage everyone to volunteer in the classroom when you can, work with your child on their homework, read with your child, and make sure they come to school daily. Students have to be present to make progress!

Sincerely -

Adam Schaible
District Superintendent

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JX Wilson



RL Stevens



Wright Charter

2019/20 Budget Update

In 2018 many Sonoma County school districts saw their enrollment drastically reduced, presumably as a result of the 2017 wildfires and the resulting housing shortage. As a District WESD, saw a decline of 84 kids from last year. The surrounding districts report the following K-6 declines:

- Bellevue: - 75 (- 4.4%)
- Roseland: - 43 (2.6%)
- Santa Rosa: - 193 (-3.8%)
- Rincon Valley: - 254 (-6.6%)
- Piner: - 105 (10%)
- Bennett Valley - 23 (-2.3%)
- Wright: - 84 (-5%)

The drop in enrollment will result in a decrease to the funding our schools receive next year.

At the same time that District Enrollment declined, other costs have gone up. In particular, costs associated with State mandated programs like Special Education and Pension contributions have more than doubled over the last several years.

In order for the us to prepare for what appears will be a challenging budget year, a Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee was formed in October. Made up of teachers, parents, and staff the Committee studied the District's expenditures and recommended a number of reductions to be phased in over the next three years, depending on what happens with enrollment and State funding levels.

In May, the Governor will release an update on school funding, at which point the District will have to make final decisions about reductions for next year.

For more information about funding for our schools, please read a letter that I sent to [Senator McGuire](#) in December.





Student One Card

WESD has entered into a partnership with the Sonoma County Library to offer every student in the District a "Student One Card" account. The Sonoma County Library will create accounts for our kids using their student ID, which will give them access to:

- all electronic resources on the SCL website (including all e-books and audio-books)
- free online one-on-one homework tutoring in English and Spanish in all major subjects
- use of public library computers at any of the SCL locations
- ability to check out books at your local library without a physical card

A Sonoma County Library representative is attending staff meetings over the next few months to help teachers understand how the system works, and parents can expect information to be coming home soon, including an "opt-out" form for those who wish not to participate.



Heating and Air Conditioning Upgrades

Over Spring Break the District replaced many of the wall-hanging Heating and Air-Conditioning at JX Wilson. Over the summer, wall-hanging units at RL Stevens, as well as rooftop units at Wright Charter School and JX Wilson, will also be replaced. Funding for the upgrades comes from a mix of District Resources and State funding under Prop 39. Prop 39, also known as "energy efficiency" funding, can only be used for projects that can be proven to save energy over time. In addition to replacing HVAC units, WESD has also used Prop 39 funds for Solar installations and lighting upgrades.

New Air Quality Guidelines

Following the 2018 school closures due to wildfire smoke, the County Office of Education convened an "Air Quality Task Force" made up of District representatives, Sonoma County Health Services, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Northern Sonoma county Air Pollution Control District. The purpose of the task force was to analyze data and issue [new guidelines](#) to help individual school districts make decisions the next time we experience smoke danger.

The [Sonoma County Schools Air Quality Guidelines](#) are considered "interim" while we wait for the State to issue its own guidelines:

Air Quality Index (AQI) Range	Recommended School Actions	Parent Actions	Health Actions
0-50 (Green)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send kids to school as normal. 	None	None
51-100 (Yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send kids to school as normal. Monitor kids who are especially sensitive to air pollution and/or symptoms. 	Monitor readings, take their own or a friend's reading.	Monitor the situation if kids are sensitive.
101-150 (Orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DO NOT be active outdoors in high activity (PE, sports) for sensitive groups. Do longer activities such as walking/jogging, take more breaks and do less intense activities. Consider wearing masks for symptoms and take extra care if sensitive. Consider only recommended active and break time for kids with asthma. 	Monitor staff that participate in or are involved in high activity. <td>Monitor that staff are following the guidelines.</td>	Monitor that staff are following the guidelines.
151-200 (Red)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider recess options including recess in shaded areas and indoors. Check for symptoms and take breaks for sensitive groups. Consider that staff are following the guidelines. 	Monitor staff that participate in or are involved in high activity. <td>Monitor that staff are following the guidelines.</td>	Monitor that staff are following the guidelines.
201 and higher (Purple)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close all activities unless in a shaded area to protect the sensitive. 	Monitor staff that participate in or are involved in high activity. <td>Monitor that staff are following the guidelines.</td>	Monitor that staff are following the guidelines.

Additional Information: Air pollution can make asthma symptoms worse and trigger attacks. Symptoms of asthma include coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, and chest pain. Avoid going to school if you are having an asthma attack or are having difficulty breathing. If you are having an asthma attack, use your inhaler and seek medical help. If symptoms don't improve, get medical help.

Here are a few key conclusions and recommendations:

- Airnow.gov will be listed as the recommended air quality monitoring site because its network of monitors are maintained and operated by trained government agencies. Multiple Airnow.gov monitors form a network to track regional air quality and use highly accurate tools that are regularly monitored for quality control by the EPA. Purple Air, on the other hand, is a comparatively inexpensive "plug and play" device that anyone can buy but that is not monitored by trained professionals.
- Masks will not be recommended for use at schools because they require require a perfect seal to be effective and they can give a false sense of security.
- Focus of the guidelines is on limiting outdoor activity and other safety measures, not closing school.
- HVAC units should use medium to high efficiency filters (WESD filter are).
- Schools should consider closing if outdoor air quality, as measured by airnow.gov rises above 200 (purple on the linked chart). (This is 75 points below the original guidelines released during the 2018 fires).

The task force has been careful to note in various correspondence that this is not just a health issue, but also an equity issue. Survey data collected by the task force indicated that many children are left unattended when school is closed, or may lose access to free and reduced lunch. It is also true that for many, air quality at home may be worse that at school.

Ultimately, school closure is a District decision. It is based in part on the guidelines, but also on local conditions, such as availability of rooms equipped with appropriate HVAC filtration and the needs of the local community. Very helpful in making these decisions is access to timely, reliable data. In addition to airnow.gov, we are looking at a number of options for setting up one classroom on each site air quality sensor that can be monitored remotely.

LCAP Annual Update

Each year the school districts are required to update their Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP. Over the last two months, I have been visiting with as many stakeholder groups as possible, including ELACs, PTCs, Boosters and Site Councils. Additionally, a parent survey was sent home with your child's last report card. If you would like to offer feedback about Wright School District's [goals and actions](#) for next year, please [email](#) or call me and I will get right back to you.

SBAC Testing

This year SBAC testing will begin at RL Stevens on April 22nd, and at JX and WCS on April 29th. Testing at all three sites will end on May 17th.



Last Spring I was very happy to report that we made almost all of our LCAP goals (5% gains for all students, 7% for subgroups) and I am looking forward to seeing what we can do this year.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing academic standards and preparing all students for success in college and careers. The assessment is designed to provide an academic checkup by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. In addition, it will provide information for use during the year to give teachers and parents a better picture of where students are succeeding and where they need help.

Our wonderful cooks will prepare breakfast for all students on testing days. You can do your part by making sure that your kids arrive at school on-time and well-rested!



Wright Elementary School District

📍 4385 Price Avenue, Santa Ros...

✉️ aschaible@wrightesd.org

☎️ 707 542-0550

🌐 wrightesd.org