March 20, 2020

Dear Equitas Families,

On Friday, March 13th, the announcement about our two-week closure was deployed to the organization, families, and scholars. Since then, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order, protecting state funding for public charter schools closing in response to COVID-19, allowing us to retain state funding in support of our schools. The State Superintendent confirmed that there will be no statewide testing (pending federal approval) of students this year. The Governor has also asked us to prepare for the possibility that schools may not reopen before next fall.

Considering our most recent updates, Equitas Academy will extend the closure of all schools through at least April 17th. Spring Break is observed from April 6th-April 10th. April 13th was already calendared a professional development/pupil free day.

As you know the situation remains incredibly fluid, hour by hour, day by day. We will continue to monitor updates from the State of California and inform you of further extensions to closure and next steps.

LEARNING
Each student has up to four weeks of content learning packets (not including Spring Break). You will be receiving a Family Resource Guide to support you as you support your children at home. As we speak, we are building out our Distance Learning Plan using our chrome books. We are designing our distribution process to ensure all families have access. Effective April 20th, we will move to formal Distance Learning where your child will engage in learning from their teachers directly. Stay tuned for upcoming details. For the next few weeks, please use the content learning packets and your Family Resource Guide. If you have any questions you can reach out to your School Director and/or teachers.

MEAL DISTRIBUTION
Equitas meal distribution is effective Monday, March 23rd from 8-11 am at Equitas Academy, 1700 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, Ca 90015. We will be following CDC aligned practices for our distribution. Additionally, LAUSD has created “Grab and Go” distribution locations, available to all our scholars and families. https://achieve.lausd.net/resources

COMMUNICATION
Please continue to check Parent Square and our website on a daily basis. More announcements and updates will be released on an ongoing basis. We appreciate your continued trust, belief, and partnership in Equitas.

As I close this letter, I am personally overcome with emotion as I think of our families, scholars, grandparents, and elderly family members. I feel you as a child of Pico-Union. I feel you as a mother who has her own ten-year old child at home learning in this way. I feel you as I also care for my own elderly mother. I send you all my love during this very difficult time. We come from a history of warriors and survivors. Strong enough to withstand whatever it takes for our children and families. That will push us through this experience and we will come out stronger as a result.

Equitas is a resilient, courageous, and powerful community. As we embark in this journey, we are grounded by the fact that our love for Equitas remains stronger than ever. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay united.

With love and partnership,

Dr. Leslie Chang
Acting Chief Executive Officer