



Dear California Charter Schools Conference participant:

For the past few weeks, CCSA has monitored the development of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and shared with you the recommendations and updates of local and state public health agencies.

Here is what we know to date:

- The number of cases continue to grow exponentially across California.
- The State of California, Los Angeles County, Santa Clara County, City of San Francisco, and City of Long Beach have all declared a State of Emergency.
- Government health agencies are advising the public of hazards associated with attending large-scale events where people are in close proximity.
- The CA Department of Public Health is advising event organizers to create an emergency contingency plan for how to modify, cancel, or postpone their mass gathering or large community event if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in their community.
- Several high-profile events across California and the U.S. are cancelled due to health concerns.
- Some health experts are expecting this crisis to get much worse before it gets better.

At CCSA, the health and safety of our students, teachers, and charter sector partners has always been our priority and responsibility. The reality is that the vast majority of the 3,000 conference attendees work directly with children and we will not put any of you, our students and families at risk.

For these reasons, CCSA is proactively protecting our charter school community and concluding that we must cancel this year's conference in Long Beach March 16 – 19, 2020. We recognize that this decision creates disruption, but our concern for your safety overrides what we know are economic impacts for all of us. We trust you understand it was not an easy decision but support that it is the right thing to do.

CCSA also understands the urgent need to disseminate real-time support to our schools regarding the implementation of AB 1505. Therefore, we plan to host a streamlined virtual conference so that those sessions, AB1505 office hours, and a few other critical sessions can be delivered online via a webinar platform in the same time window that attendees would have otherwise attended the conference. We will follow-up soon with logistical information on how to participate in these sessions.

Our immediate priority is to support our schools properly during this public health crisis, and to provide guidance and support on communications, possible school closures, distance learning, and available public resources to mitigate financial impacts.

Based on past experience, CCSA will ensure our charter schools are not overlooked when public health and safety agencies assume that outreach with school districts will adequately cover all schools. We will diligently remain in contact with public agencies to learn of breaking developments and provide our members with regular updates on COVID-19 and available resources.

Your understanding and patience are appreciated as we manage the numerous inquiries regarding the cancellation of the conference. Registered attendees, presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors will receive a detailed follow-up email regarding next steps.

We are facing a public health crisis that is unprecedented in recent memory and we want to ensure that CCSA continues to be your trusted partner to keep our community informed, prepared, safe and aligned for the benefit for our kids. Rest assured that we are working hand in glove with the Governor's Office, regulatory and health agencies at all levels to advocate for your needs and minimize disruption to your schools. Please stay tuned for our communications and our website for updated information and resources.

Yours,

Myrna Castrejón
President and CEO
California Charter Schools Association