

# COVID-19 Operations Written Report

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone	Date of Adoption
YouthBuild Charter School of CA	Dr. Rudy Cuevas, Superintendent	<a href="mailto:rcuevas@youthbuildcharter.org">rcuevas@youthbuildcharter.org</a> 213-804-2199	June 26th, 2020

**Descriptions provided should include sufficient detail yet be sufficiently succinct to promote a broader understanding of the changes your LEA has put in place. LEAs are strongly encouraged to provide descriptions that do not exceed 300 words.**

Provide an overview explaining the changes to program offerings that the LEA has made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency and the major impacts of the closures on students and families.

YouthBuild Charter School of California (YCSC) is authorized to use a project-based, interdisciplinary curriculum model that relies on authentic assessment and applied learning for any and all local community contexts. By utilizing an instructional methodology that is intended to be responsive to any social phenomenon, YCSC students are always empowered to take what they learn in the classroom into their communities to promote social change through volunteerism and advocacy. The culmination of young people applying academic content to propose new solutions to current inequity is an intentional effort to allow for young people to practice taking an active leadership role in their local communities.

Forever committed to the above mission, YCSC has taken this difficult time and repurposed it as an opportunity from which we not only rely on our strengths but from which we build on YCSC’s best practices to make them even stronger.

In essence, YCSC is not retreating from the current challenges but making the current pandemic and the issues of racial division foundational elements of the current educational discourse.

Our young people have always been able to better describe the inequity that has existed in their communities and we are currently able to tap into that same skillset as they help us seize this as a teachable moment to allow young people to take a leadership role with regard to the political, economic, and social phenomenon related to COVID-19.

It is imperative for YCSC to not only prepare young people to better respond to crises by relying on our historic ability to center the educational discourse on social phenomenon (like this current pandemic) but to also couple those transformative efforts with a nurturing and supportive environment. Ultimately, what we are providing is more than just an educational resource for young people and their families but a holistic set of services. The latter engagement and nurturing efforts are also part and parcel of what YCSC is providing its staff during this difficult time.

When YCSC made the decision to switch its educational program to distance learning, it was not only a decision made to be responsive to state and local guidance with respect to COVID-19 but also a commitment to continue to operate in service of the young people and communities we serve across California. While continuing to evaluate CDE guidance, local and national recommendations to its current operational setup, YCSC is committed to making the most thoughtful and strategic plan to move forward with 20/21 instructional plans.

Informed by the above framework, all of the following responsive accommodations are currently in place as outlined below:

Provide a description of how the LEA is meeting the needs of its English learners, foster youth and low-income students.

English Learners continue to receive the same instructional support and accommodations they were receiving prior to COVID-19. All foster and low-income students continue to receive prioritized case management and referrals to local resources. YCSC staff continue to provide college and career counseling to foster and low-income students via the pre-existing virtual college and career counseling across all sites, which includes workshops and webinars provided by EYP and LifePrep Academy.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities.

Since YCSC has historically been able to rely on to adapt to any and all local realities with an interdisciplinary learning model that employs authentic assessment, YCSC was able to pivot to distance learning in all of the following ways with still keeping the core of its social justice mission in place:

- YCSC developed a plan to closeout Trimester 2 in the middle of March, including extended time for students to complete assignments
- YCSC created a Pass/Incomplete grading format to be responsive to the challenges faced by students in a new format
- YCSC deployed new and existing learning tools like: Zoom, Schoology, email, phone calls, texts, and social media platforms to continue engaging young people
- YCSC committed to overcoming any and all technology gaps by making effort to provide all students/teachers with WiFi access computers, scanners, printers, white boards, document cams
- YCSC was able to give counselors and teachers several matrix options for sites to choose how they could still meet the usual number of course offerings in a typical trimester.
- YCSC also maximized its current vendor partnerships to give students/teachers access to customized hardcopies of learning materials when technology was a challenge
- YCSC stay committed to its 19/20 LCAP Goals/Actions related to college/career by continuing to provide virtual college and career counseling across all sites
- YCSC leadership also significantly increased its supportive services by providing social emotional support services virtually with the support of the MSW program

- includes social emotional support for staff on weekly basis and a wellness website for staff to access resources for those struggling during this time
- YB partners were able to virtually reframe their supportive services and offerings for young people at all sites
- Will continue to have an ongoing review and analysis of potential resources and vendors that could support with this new setup

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to provide school meals while maintaining social distancing practices.

Since YCSC was not staffed or executing the Seamless Summer Option at any site prior to COVID-19, all sites referred young people to local districts, school sites, and food banks that were already setup to effectively distribute food to students and families.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

Across all sites, YCSC has always engaged young people that are 16-24 year of age. While the supervision factor is not an issue for young people 18 and over, all minors continue to get the same number of educational opportunities to accommodate their unique needs. Given that the same educational opportunities are still being provided across all sites, supervision of minors is still happening.