



Supervisor Hillary Ronen

In the early stages of the pandemic, San Francisco and other counties across the state required the immediate closure of schools to slow the spread of coronavirus in the community. School districts and educators across the state stepped up and adapted to the challenges of school closures by shifting towards online distance learning at a scale that had never been attempted before.

But even with innovative distance learning measures in place, the COVID-19 school disruptions have had an extremely adverse effect on K-12 learning and overall student well-being, especially among low-income students and students of color.

The ongoing school closures have substantially cut student learning time, limited the ability of educators to provide their usual level of support, diminished opportunities for students to develop their social and emotional skills, and increased rates of anxiety, depression, obesity, and other serious health conditions among students.

The disproportionate health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American families, including higher rates of job loss and COVID-19 infections, have only exacerbated the social and emotional challenges that students of color have had to endure during this crisis.

Since the timeline for when students will be allowed to return to in-person instruction remains unclear, it is critical that the City partner with SFUSD to ramp up the availability of emergency supports and wraparound services to help students and families navigate the challenging experience of distance learning.

I am calling a hearing to discuss how the City can better assist the School District in expanding the availability of social and emotional supports for students and families by:

- Taking inventory of the existing social and emotional support programs available to district families under distance learning
- Identifying specific unmet needs or gaps in the capacity of these programs (i.e., the need to fund additional school social worker positions to be able to visit and work with more families in need)

I am directing the Clerk of the Board to invite the School District, the Director of the Department of Children, Youth and their Families (DCYF), School Board members, and the United Educators of San Francisco to attend.