

# MONTEREY COUNTY



## Monterey County Board of Supervisors

**John M. Phillips**  
Supervisor District 2

**Josh Stratton**  
Chief of Staff

**Claudia J. Link**  
Policy Analyst

P.O. Box 787  
Castroville, CA 95012  
831-755-5022  
831-633-0201  
District2@co.monterey.ca.us

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SUBJECT: North Monterey County Unified School District Distant Learning

We are currently in the midst of a national, state and local health emergency that impacts millions of students and families around the country. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most schools in California are not hosting in-person classes and teachers are working hard to adapt to a new method of educating. Adding to the difficulties of new teaching methods is the challenge of each student having the technology needed to access their teachers and schoolwork.

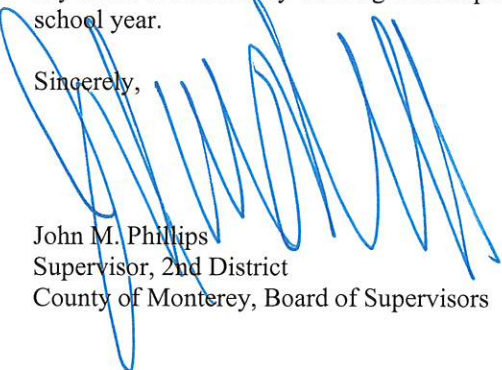
All of our local school districts throughout the county face technology and infrastructure resource challenges resulting from the closure of schools and the need for students to use distance learning.

Superintendent of Schools for North Monterey County Unified School District (NMCUSD), Kari Yeater and her team have been working very hard to fill technology gaps in coverage areas and provide resources for families unable to afford internet access. Even before it was confirmed that schools would be remote this school year, NMCUSD began efforts to secure funding and resources for students to access their schoolwork. Their preparations have paid off and through their proactive efforts with AT&T, NMCUSD has secured approximately 1,300 mobile internet hotspots and other technology for their students. There is currently a significant shortage of hotspot devices throughout the state and Monterey County and, in addition, there is a strain on technology resources to program each device, so we are fortunate that NMCUSD took such proactive steps to secure them for our North County students.

For months my office has been working directly with NMCUSD, AT&T, the Monterey County Information Technology department and other providers to ensure North County students have the resources needed for distance learning. I understand that this is a stressful time for parents and students and can assure all of those who are concerned that any delays in receiving technology tools will be brief. We have heard some public frustration aired that not all infrastructure is in place but I want to assure the public that NMCUSD faculty and staff, in addition to their partners at AT&T, have worked tirelessly to get the necessary resources and will provide the resources necessary for our students.

My office is continually working with Superintendent Yeater, AT&T and other providers to ensure no student gets left behind this school year.

Sincerely,

  
John M. Phillips  
Supervisor, 2nd District  
County of Monterey, Board of Supervisors