Querida Education Justice Community,

Hello again. How are you?

We’ve heard from many of you throughout the Valley that this time has been difficult.

The virus poses a very real threat to all people. We are grateful for those who have used this opportunity to be of service to their friends, family, and neighbors, as well as medical professionals and essential service workers who are the glue holding our communities together.

We must also acknowledge that Black and Brown people, low wage and service workers are among those deemed “essential” at this time, and may be without financial and medical support safety nets. Many of those who are fortunate to have safe homes and financial means find themselves entrapped in colonial racial, gender, ability, and class dynamics that erode autonomy, productivity, and wellness. Our current crisis again betrays some of society’s deepest held beliefs about who must and will bare the brunt of our systemic failings. As is always the case, the folks we call in to our work now must be those who have been cast aside, endangered, overworked, and underpaid by mainstream social and economic interests.

We know that our people are working on the frontlines of community spread, our people are losing jobs in disproportionate numbers, are less likely to be able to find safe shelter and to physically distance, and are suffering greater losses across the country due to institutional and individual racism. Nationwide, these realities are compounded with aggressive policing that continues to endanger our lives, and funding continues to gush into militaristic alternatives to building community, as well as private, for-profit enterprises.

So much of our daily lives have changed, and yet so much about the forces in power that fail to support us remains exactly the same. Surface conditions of the problem look different, but the
faces of those tasked with shouldering the burden remain the same.

Our goals have not changed, and the current crisis only further demonstrates the need for our communities across the Central Valley to come together in order to build strong solutions to Education Injustice that work for us, rather than fighting our battles alone, or waiting for those whose countless promises to serve us inevitably fall short.

When we struggle for Education Justice, we prioritize the wellness of our children and community. While we encourage folks to engage in Self- and Community Care as their top priority, we must also redouble our efforts—when we are able—to hold School Districts and other agencies accountable for engaging our people most likely to be pushed through the cracks.

Schools are cutting services, and not supporting the same safe adult relationships that young people need in the face of crisis, but still manage to find funding for policing. As we transition to virtual classes and meetings, we must not forget those of us who do not have reliable access to technology, Internet, or quiet and safe spaces to participate.

Our Core Education Justice Partners have identified the following four concerns as being most urgent at this time:

1. **FOOD ACCESS:**
   Continuous, unfettered access to equitable distribution of healthy, free foods for all students who are in need—regardless of COVID-19 conditions.

2. **ACADEMIC PROGRESS & SUPPORT:**
   Students must be credited for work completed for the academic year 2019 - 2020, and supported in reaching grade level expectations in order to complete the year on track to graduate. Students expected to graduate this year must graduate this year.

3. **ACCESS to TECHNOLOGY:**
   Students must be provided the tools they need in order to participate in virtual learning in the time of physical distancing. This means districts must support the equitable distribution of tablets and digital materials to all students who require them, and creative solutions to quality, high-speed Internet must also be provided.

4. **CURRICULUM:**
   All students deserve to have quality, equitable, grade-level instruction that is culturally appropriate.
**COVID-19 EdJustice Update & Community Call to Action**

We encourage parents, youth, and organizers affected by these issues to join us for our first [CVMB Community Check-In Call](#) on Friday, April 17 at 2:00PM to share their experiences on these concerns and others as we develop our grassroots response and virtual support resources for our friends and partners in the field. Please [REGISTER](#) as soon as possible.

For as long as our children are our future, neighborhood schools are at the heart of our communities, and education is the key to our collective liberation: **WE DEMAND EDUCATION JUSTICE TODAY, TOMORROW, AND ALWAYS.**

In Solidarity,

Central Valley Movement Building