Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy is part of Green Dot Public Schools California, a non-profit charter school network serving 11,500 students in the greater Los Angeles area. Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy has made every effort to ensure continued academic engagement for 100% of its students since closing its school building on March 13, 2020. Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy sent out a parent letter every week accompanied by automated calls and text messages instructing families to visit the school’s website for additional information. All communication was available in English and Spanish. Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy distributed computers to every student and hot spots to families in need of internet connectivity free of charge. Students receive instructional content through Google Classroom, and parents were invited to Google Guardian to receive a daily email with a summary of student assignments. Teachers provide individualized support via video-conferencing, email and telephone. To ensure students’ social and emotional needs are being met, students participate in daily Advisory lessons with their teachers and peers. To monitor academic progress, students complete daily exit slips and assessments are administered every other Friday in the form of quizzes, short answer responses or other assignment that demonstrate mastery of learning for the week. Distance learning ensures students are learning virtually and provides students with an opportunity to improve their grades. Additionally, Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy is committed to ensuring the needs of students with disabilities are met during this unprecedented time. To ensure services continue, Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy has transitioned the majority of our services to a virtual service delivery model. To do so, we have modified responsibilities for specific roles related to serving students with disabilities, retained vendors who provide services to students with disabilities and identified when supports will be provided during the school day. School counselors continue to provide individual counseling services and academic support for students in a virtual model.
Watts College Preparatory Academy is using the Imagine Learning curriculum, which delivers personalized learning online. Additionally, Green Dot California’s Education Team has adapted resources for sheltered teachers to use online with English learners. Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy is committed to ensuring its foster youth are cared for during this time. To do so, school staff conduct regular Wellness Checks with foster youth students and collaborate with Department of Children and Family Services and the Los Angeles County Office of Education to support with immediate enrollment for homeless and foster youth and provide technology.

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

Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy developed a distance learning academic model that is as similar as possible to that of a classroom environment. To ensure students are able to access distance learning, Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy distributed computers to all students and secured internet connectivity to families in need. Distance learning instruction is implemented both synchronously and asynchronously. For synchronously instruction, instruction is delivered when teachers and students are online at the same time or able to communicate with each other in real time. During asynchronous instruction, teachers and students can be online at different times. Ánimo City of Champions Charter High School’s distance learning approach prioritizes the social-emotional well-being of our students, core academic classes and maintaining student-teacher relationships. Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy is also ensuring students are able to complete their A-G course requirements through elective blocks.

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

Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy has been providing pre-packaged breakfast and lunch at its school site or at a neighboring Green Dot California school since school buildings were closed on March 13, 2020. Breakfast and lunch are available between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Food distribution hours and locations are kept up to date on the school’s website to ensure families have real-time information about Green Dot California’s food distribution locations. In compliance with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Green Dot California adopted a Social Distancing Protocol for all of its schools, including Ánimo City of Champions Charter High School. During lunch distribution, in particular, the school implemented tools to ensure visitors and employees stand at least 6 feet apart. Additionally, all staff distributing meals must wear a face covering and gloves and self-serving is not permitted. Hand sanitizer is available at meal distribution stations and Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy cleans and disinfects frequently touched objects and surfaces.

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

Students are expected to participate in distance learning during regular school hours. Students participate in daily advisory lessons as well as two 90 minute blocks of core content instruction as well as additional enrichment and electives. While attendance is not formally reported, Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy monitors student engagement and reaches out to students who have not recently engaged in distance learning. Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy performed wellness checks with every family as well as follow-up visits with at-risk student groups, including students who are experiencing homelessness, foster youth, students with disabilities and English Learners.

Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy informs families of available childcare and student supervision resources through Green Dot California’s website, which has an easily accessible COVID-19 Resource Page (https://ca.greendot.org/covid19/). Families can find resources.
for childcare, mental health and additional social services by clicking on “Social Supports.” This website includes information for Los Angeles County’s 211 service, which connects families to free resources, including childcare. Additionally, families can call Ánimo Watts College Preparatory Academy directly for information and support. Members of Ánimo City of Champions Charter High School’s staff are available for in-person guidance during lunch distribution and office hours, in accordance with social distancing protocols.

California Department of Education
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