

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **San Bernardino County Superintendent Supports Schools Decision to Close Schools In Response To Coronavirus Pandemic**

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Superintendent Ted Alejandre issued a statement in support of county school districts who are making the difficult decision to close schools in response to the national health emergency caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

School districts across San Bernardino County have notified students, parents and their communities that they will be closing.

“These difficult decisions have been made in collaboration with the 33 school district superintendents across our county and in consultation with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health,” Alejandre said.

“The coronavirus has caused great anxiety and uncertainty in our schools and communities. The safety of our students and staff remains our top priority, and we are confident this is the best course of action to take for the 406,000 students who attend public schools in San Bernardino County. I support our districts in their efforts.

“These are unprecedented times for public education in meeting the challenges presented by this virus. While county health officials indicate that as of today, they have yet to confirm a case of COVID-19 in San Bernardino County. There is still uncertainty as to the impact of COVID-19 on our schools and communities.

“This is not a decision our district leaders take lightly. We know that temporarily closing a school has a tremendous impact on our families. SBCSS is supporting district efforts to continue learning while schools are closed by developing resources and strategies to provide a continuity of learning and ensure access and equity for all of our students.

*Office of the Superintendent*

“The bottom line is that we in education need to do what we can to support our students, staff, families and communities in facing these very difficult circumstances. Our districts have been working in concert with state and local public health officials to provide the safest environments for our schools.”

Individual school districts will notify families and students in their communities about the decision to close their schools and will share information with their communities concerning free and reduced meal programs, access to instructional opportunities, childcare and other available services during the closure of schools.