

PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from County Superintendent Ted Alejandre Regarding Extending School Closures Amidst COVID-19 Response

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Superintendent Ted Alejandre released the following statement today in response to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond’s call for California school campuses to remain closed for the remainder of the school year with the expectation that students’ education will continue through distance learning.

“Our public school leaders in San Bernardino County recognize the significant impact the coronavirus is having on our students, staff and families. In the interest of their health and safety, and out of an abundance of caution, I am recommending San Bernardino County school districts extend school site closures through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

“We believe it is critical to move forward in a collaborative and unified manner in San Bernardino County about the status of our public schools amidst this public health crisis. I have conferred with San Bernardino County district superintendents and public health officials. There is agreement among us that the need to continue safety efforts and social distancing to curb the spread of COVID-19 warrants the continued closure of school campuses across our county.

This is an intentional decision that puts the safety of students and staff first and foremost. While our school campuses are closed, we have an obligation to ensure our students continue to receive quality education services through the remainder of the school year, with a focus on the delivery of instruction through distance learning and providing school meals to our students.

“I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of school staff to serve our students and families with continuity of learning, nutrition and social/emotional supports during these unprecedented circumstances. We recognize the closure of school campuses through the end of the school year brings about many questions for students and parents—particularly our graduating seniors. We are collaborating with state leaders in the development of guidance on these matters and will continue to update our school communities. I encourage families to check local school district websites for additional information.”

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Office of the Superintendent