

March 15, 2020

Dear SBRSD School Community,

This evening, the Commissioner of Education held a conference call with Superintendents, and the Governor held a press conference to announce that due to the increase in the spread of the Coronavirus disease by person to person transmission, *all schools statewide will be closing for a three week period through April 6th with an anticipated return date of April 7, 2020.*

The main reason for this decision is to give credence to the importance of social distancing. He stressed that in order for this shutdown to be effective, this time out of school should not be used as an early summer vacation, but rather as a serious effort to keep people home as much as possible so as not to continue to spread the disease to others in the community. Please see the public letter from a Doctor of Epidemiology on this topic at the link below:

<https://medium.com/@ariadnelabs/social-distancing-this-is-not-a-snow-day-ac21d7fa78b4>

In light of this new information, we are planning to open all schools tomorrow for a four-hour window only, so that students and families can come get anything they left in school prior to the emergency shutdown period. **All schools will be open on Monday, March 16, 2020 from 2pm to 6pm. Please note that all facilities are being closed at 6pm without exception.**

We are continuing to follow the guidance from our state associations on how best to provide online educational resource sharing and on offering enrichment opportunities, not remote learning, due to the issues of FAPE, equity, and accessibility for all students. In the next few days, I will update our school community with SBRSD's plans to keep our students engaged in learning activities over the next several weeks. Also, there will be additional

communication about the wonderful community resources available to support ongoing food programs for families as soon as tomorrow afternoon.

I encourage everyone to work together and heed the advice that has been provided in an effort to mitigate the spread of this disease. Let's continue to take care of each other.

Sincerely,

Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent of Schools