



Amador County Public Schools

COVID-19 Letter to Families & Press Release

Distance Learning for the Remainder of the 2019-20 School Year

April 2, 2020

Dear Amador County Public Schools Families and Staff,

Based upon statements from Governor Newsom during his April 1, 2020 press conference and the March 31, 2020 letter from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, we are following their guidance to assist in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 throughout our community. Our priority continues to be the health and well-being of all individuals in our community.

In our last communication, we informed you that school campuses will be closed through April 17, 2020. At this time, we do not plan to reopen our school campuses for standard operations for the remainder of this school year. If new information emerges to change this decision, we will notify you as soon as possible.

It is important to understand we are not closing school and we are continuing the essential work of teaching and learning for all Amador County Public School students. Just the school buildings are closed. Educational and social-emotional opportunities and supports will continue to be provided through distance learning. Meals will continue to be provided. Child care for those who need it (e.g., first responders, essential workers, those experiencing dire or extenuating circumstances) will continue to be provided.

Last week, we focused on teacher planning and collaboration time to prepare for teacher-led distance learning. This week, the focus is on getting as many families as possible connected to the Internet with Chromebooks or other devices and starting to become familiar with distance learning. Next week, we will begin to focus on strengthening students' skills and learning content. For families where Internet access is just not possible, a solution is in progress and you can expect to hear from your school in the coming days. To be clear, the school year is not over, it has just transitioned from classroom based instruction to distance learning.

We know our high school seniors have been looking forward to celebrating graduation with events and ceremonies and they are very concerned about missing out on these momentous occasions. Please know that district and school leaders will be planning how they can offer these experiences in different formats and/or at a later date. In the coming days and weeks, district and school leaders will provide families information about how grades, graduation, transcripts, scholarships, and continued distance learning instruction will be handled.

The California Department of Education worked with colleges and universities to relax admissions policies. For details, you may go to <https://mailchi.mp/acsa/new-admissions-policies-for-uc-and-csu?e=fba7e89537>. Meanwhile, our wonderful high school counselors will continue their personalized work with each high school senior to make sure he/she is ready for the next step on their college and career path. Please know, if a high school senior was on track to graduate prior to COVID-19, he/she should be able to graduate.

We ask for your patience and understanding as we work together to transition into a new way of teaching and learning to meet the health and safety impacts of COVID-19. It's challenging to many educators and our families to learn and communicate in a very new world, but working together we can and will meet this challenge. Our teachers and school staff are amazing and continue to serve with passion and an unwavering dedication to our students. For this, we are grateful.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Russell, ACOE Superintendent
Dr. Amy Slavensky, ACUSD Superintendent
Dr. Rita Kerr, Amador County Public Health Officer