

March 13, 2020

From: Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent

To: Local Superintendents

Superintendents:

Effective Thursday, March 19, 2020, all public schools in the state of Alabama shall close facilities until Monday, April 6, 2020. Decisions about whether or not staff should report to school facilities remain at the discretion of the local education agency. The guidance provided below will continue to be updated as additional information becomes available.

- With appropriate social distancing measures, districts shall continue to provide meals or other essential services with applicable staff.
- Districts may appeal to the State Superintendent of Education for relief from the minimum instructional hour requirements for the days within the Governor's state of emergency declaration. I will be automatically excusing calendar days from March 19 through April 3, 2020.
- Districts should continue to notify the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the State Superintendent of any known employee- or student-confirmed COVID-19 cases in their districts.
- All school events, such as performances, plays, athletic events, athletic practices, etc., are suspended during this period of school closure.

We will continue to reassess the evolving situation and provide ongoing communication and guidance as we all continue to monitor the latest public health updates from the ADPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As usual, the ALSDE staff will be available to answer any questions you may have related to this state of emergency and closure, but please do not hesitate to contact me any time.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.

State Superintendent of Education

Alabama State Department of Education