

TAFT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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JULIE A. GRAVES, Ed.D., Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Dear TCSD Staff,

Out of an abundance of caution and despite having no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Kern County, the Kern County Director of Public Health Services, Matthew Constantine, and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary C. Barlow, have recommended the temporary closure of the county's schools as we all work together to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Mr. Constantine and Dr. Barlow have recommended that all Kern County public schools be temporarily closed no later than the close of school, Wednesday, March 18 and are further recommending that schools plan to reopen no earlier than Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

The Taft City School District will fully comply with the recommendation of our county's chief health official and county superintendent of schools. Accordingly, the Taft City School District will close at dismissal on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and we will plan to reopen our schools on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Our district will implement the closure of our schools in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order (N-26- 20). The Executive Order, issued on Friday, March 13 protects public schools from funding losses that might otherwise result from student attendance decline or the loss of required instructional days due to the coronavirus contagion. Additionally, the Governor's Order directs protected school districts, county offices of education and charters that due close schools to continue to deliver:

- High Quality educational opportunities to students that address equity and access issues of students in disadvantaged communities,
- A free and appropriate public education to students with disabilities consistent with required individualized education programs under the IDEA,
- School Meals in noncongregate settings that protects the safety of students and school personnel,
- Supervision for students during ordinary school hours.

Accordingly, all TCSD Classified, Certificated, and Confidential Management Employees are to report to work on Monday, March 16. Your site principal or immediate supervisor will provide additional information to you when you arrive at your work site as **additional, more specific plans and instructions for students and district employees will be communicated directly in the coming 48 hours.**

Over the previous month, school districts in Kern that have made proactive choices to prepare to close their schools to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. I am confident our district is well prepared to protect the safety of our students and staff moving forward and that we will be prepared to deliver the following essential services to our children and families after school closure identified in the Governor's Execute Order.

As educators, we entered the field of serving students for noble reasons. As we navigate through the coming weeks and months, let us look upon every new day as a special opportunity to serve and make a difference in the lives of others. Our students and families need us now, and will look to us to be role models and leaders. Let us continue to focus on the needs of our students and families, with the professionalism and grace that is a hallmark of our district.

Finally, we need to support one another, hold onto the ideals and beliefs that drove us to enter the profession and keep in the front of our minds the children we serve. We also need to make sure we stay home if we're ill, if we are caring for someone who is ill, or if we are among the vulnerable populations (elderly and people with chronic medical conditions).

Please know Kern County school districts are united in making the best decisions we can, for our community, for our students and for the families we serve and we appreciate your professionalism, dedication and commitment to our school family.

Sincerely,

Julie Graves
TCSD Superintendent