

March 13, 2020

Message from Superintendent Warren Drake

Following the guidance from Governor John Bel Edwards, the East Baton Rouge Parish School System will be closed effective March 16, 2020, and will tentatively resume April 13, 2020. View the full proclamation here: <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/ExecutiveOrders/27-JBE-2020-COVID-19.pdf>

Employee Information:

All 12 month employees are expected to report to work. Employees will receive directions from their supervisors by early next week. Employees are encouraged to check their district email for updates. Full-time, active employees will continue to receive compensation and benefits during this time. All full-time, active 9, 10 and 11-month employees should not report to work at this time.

School Activity and Facility Information:

All EBR schools and facilities will be closed to the general public throughout the duration of this closure. All school events during this time period are canceled or postponed until further notice. This also includes the cancellation of regular school day instruction, before and after-care, preschool, health services, athletics, parent teacher conferences, student registration, and enrichment.

Enrichment Activities:

Our district will provide resources for parents to access for optional enrichment. More information about these resources will be provided soon.

Ongoing Developments and Updates:

We are actively talking with local and state agencies and district partners to explore options and develop plans to address the following: spring break (April 10-17), school board meetings, state testing requirements, senior activities, etc. and how meals could potentially be provided to students. We will make announcements once decisions are made.

We have a dedicated page on our website, <https://ebrschools.org/news/health-update-coronavirus/>, where all updates will be made. We will send system-wide communications to inform parents of major changes. Please follow all of our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and local news outlets to stay informed. Continue to email questions and concerns to – hotline@ebrschools.org.

Our governor was faced with an unprecedented decision. We know the closing of our schools will impact our community, and we recognize that working families depend on us for the many vital services our schools provide.

There are thousands of families whose lives will be upended by this and our hearts go out to them. It is disheartening to think of all of the missed experiences and opportunities that this pandemic is causing, however, the safety, health, and well-being of this city and our families remain our top priority.

We appreciate the community's support and patience as we face these difficult decisions under uncertain circumstances. We are One Team, One Mission, One Family. Let's look out for one another, use good judgement, and practice patience and forbearance. We have faced trying times before and we will emerge from this situation stronger and wiser.