



**Superintendent**

Christopher Downing, Ed.D.

**Board of Education**

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Month 23, 2020

Dear AESD Staff,

“The greatest strength is the spirit of endurance.” -Lailah Gifty Akita

Communication from state and local leaders during these past few days has made it clear that our country's best chance at minimizing the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic has to be strict social distancing, and for our schools that translates to extended student dismissals. Thankfully our dedicated team has been working tirelessly to develop structured distance learning which is scheduled to be implemented on April 1. We all know that we are in the business of educating students and helping them thrive, and that mission continues to be the cornerstone for every action we take, even when instruction and circumstances look very different.

As of today, Monday, March 23, 2020, following is the latest information regarding AESD's operation and response:

**Reporting to Work:**

- Superintendent, Cabinet, and Assistants  
Many classified, certificated, and management employees are working remotely.

**All other certificated and classified staff are not to report to work until further notice but should continue to check their email daily for updates on work assignments. Long-term substitutes currently in an assignment or scheduled for an upcoming assignment will be contacted by HR and will continue to be compensated during this dismissal period.**

We continue to work with the Associations to identify the essential functions that must remain in place in order to serve our students, families, and staff.

As we communicated on Friday, the school dismissals have now been extended through April 17, 2020, or until further notice; please change your email out-of-office message to reflect this update.

Please note that per Government Code 3100, public employees are disaster service workers subject to perform not only their usual jobs but other disaster service activities as assigned to them by their superiors or by the law. Although at this time there are no disaster service activities being asked of most AESD staff, this could change at any time. Should the need arise for you to report to support disaster service activities, you will be notified.

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As we continue to receive updates from National, State and Local agencies; we will share information with you, our valued staff, as soon as possible.

We ask that all of us remember our critical role in providing stability to our families through this difficult time. Last week, in partnership with AUHSD and the YMCA over 14,000 "Grab n Go" meals were served to our students during this dismissal period with the numbers rising every day.

If families reach out to you, please reassure them that though our schools are currently "dismissed" our District is committed to continuing to be "amazing" through our Distance Learning and ongoing meal support.

During this stressful time, self-care is extremely important. Please take the time to ensure that you and your families continue to be safe and healthy. We have attached some strategies that we hope are helpful to you. [Self Care for All](#)

Kind regards,  
Dr. Christopher Downing  
Superintendent