



### Superintendent

Christopher Downing, Ed.D.

### Board of Education

Dr. J. Paolo Magcalas

Juan Gabriel Álvarez

Jackie Filbeck

Mark A. Lopez

Ryan A. Ruelas

April 1, 2020

Dear AESD Staff,

"Those are dark clouds," said the boy.

"Yes, but they will move on," said the horse, "the blue sky above never leaves."

-The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy

Based on the latest guidance received today from Governor Newsom, communication received from the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, support from Orange County Department of Education Superintendent Al Mijares, and the projections from health officials regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, **the Anaheim Elementary School District will extend school dismissals through the remainder of the school year which ends on June 4, 2020.** The decision is not made lightly but it must be made for the safety of everyone.

Please know that the school year is not ending; class is still in session. All districts, including ours, are transitioning to support students through Distance Learning. We take solace in knowing that our priority investments in technology, staff training, and the caring that each of you brings to AESD every day will help us continue to be amazing for our community.

A parent link will be sent later today informing our families.

As of today, here is the latest information regarding AESD's operation and response:

#### **Continued Support and Resources:**

- There were 7,370 meals served yesterday to Anaheim students.
- Chromebook and Hot Spot distribution took place at all 23 schools yesterday with the help of our community partner YMCA. Yesterday's results were as follows:  
Chromebooks = 356+, HotSpots = 252+
- Distance Learning launched today!
- Beginning today, Wednesday, April 1, we will be providing grade-level specific learning packets (**for students who do not have technology**) to be distributed at the AESD Grab and Go meal locations in collaboration with our community partner YMCA.
- District Office staff monitoring phone calls and emails to provide responses to parents and vendors.
- Shared plan to provide translations support to Special Education Teachers

#### **Reporting to Work:**

- Any staff being asked to report to work either in-person or remotely will be contacted directly by their supervisor via email and phone, and will continue to follow health officials' social distancing recommendations.

All other certificated and classified staff are not to report to work until further notice but should continue to check their email daily in the morning and the evening for updates on work assignments.

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**All full-time and part-time employees will continue to be paid during this dismissal time. Long-term substitutes in assignments from March 16, 2020 through the end of the assignment will be paid for those assignments. Day-to-day substitutes will be paid for time previously scheduled from March 16, 2020 through the end of the dismissal time.**

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.

Uncertainty can bring uneasiness, and challenges can summon worries but hope is a universal anchor that allows us to see past the immediate and look forward to a better tomorrow. Hold on to hope. Inspire hope in others. Choose to focus on the brighter days that will come. And when the dark clouds move on and the blue sky is once again revealed, remember to take an extra minute to indulge in the messy desks, the zealous tetherballs during recess, and the lively post-lunch chatter. We will be there again, and when we are, we will perhaps have an even greater appreciation for the marvelously mundane.

Kind regards,

AESD Board of Education, Superintendent and Cabinet, AEEA, CSEA and AESMA