



SOMERSET COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

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Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent

JEFFREY SIIPOLA

Business Administrator/Board Secretary

- Career Center Programs, Grades 9-12+
- Special Education Programs, Grades K-12
- Alternative Academic Middle & High School Programs
- Life Skills Program
- Virtual School
- Extended School Year
- Alternative to Suspension Programs
- Customized In-District Educational Programs
- Nonpublic/Public Programs & Services
- Coordinated In & Out of County Public Transportation
- Special Education Transportation
- Charters & Field Trips

March 16, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our district's number one priority is always the health and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) threatens this core value and recently we have been concerned that it may also impede our ability to achieve our primary mission of educating students. Consequently, we have been proactive in preparing to deliver instruction through distance learning so that if schools had to be closed we could continue to educate students. **In order to continue our preparations for distance learning, all schools will be on our early dismissal schedule on Monday, March 16, 2020 through Tuesday March 17, 2020.** The NJDOE has indicated that if we have a plan in place for consistent home instruction days while closed, such days would count toward our 180-day requirement. Teachers provided classwork to be completed; contact information and teacher hours are listed on teacher's cover letter.

Public health officials continue to advise that social distancing is the most effective strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We recognize that school closures will create challenges for our families and our community, but we also recognize our responsibility to address this public health concern. In an effort to meet this responsibility, **we will be closing our buildings and implementing a distance learning plan effective Wednesday March 18, 2020 and extending through Friday, April 3, 2020. Spring Break remains Monday, April 6, 2020 through Monday, April 13, 2020 as originally scheduled. We hope to reopen school on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. For however long schools remain closed, all field trips, school events, activities, and facility rentals are canceled at this time.**

We appreciate your support and understanding of this decision. We will follow up with the details of our distance learning plans and expectations for students. We will continue to maintain regular communication with our local public health official and with our learning community during the school closure. Please check with your local school district for meals offered during the school closures. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe by supporting and reinforcing the important strategy of fighting this virus through social distancing. Together, with patience, caring, resilience, and grit (exactly what we want to model for our children!) we will get through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Harold Dunsavage, Superintendent