



Kings County Office of Education
Todd Barlow - County Superintendent of Schools

April 2, 2020

Kings County Community,

Safety continues to be our top priority as we address how the COVID-19 health crisis affects our students, staff and community. Our local district superintendents have been working closely together to monitor the impact and implications of this ever-changing situation.

On Wednesday, April 1, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom held a press conference, and much of his message was about our educational system. Without providing a mandate, the governor outlined his thoughts for the future, saying that it is very unlikely schools will resume this year. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, was more prescriptive, directing schools to “proceed as if we can only educate our kids through distance learning for the remainder of the school year.”

Local superintendents had already acted to protect our students, staff and community, communicating our focus on providing meals and planning for distance learning during an extended closure of school sites. Our schools have undertaken an unprecedented effort in the past few weeks. We thank them all for their dedication to our students.

We also noted that certain criteria would have to be met in order for schools to resume normally. Given the statements made at yesterday’s press conference, it is clear that our governor does not intend to lift the statewide “shelter in place” order, nor remove the guidelines for social distancing and gathering before the end of this school year. We recognize and support such a decision, made to ensure the safety of all.

Our schools continue the transition toward providing flexible and distance learning, and we realize that this will take many different forms. We are confident that each day will bring improvements, and know our community will continue to work together to support our students. Together we will rise to this challenge.

Each district superintendent, in conjunction with their local trustees, will determine their plan for the remainder of the year and announce their decision to their communities. Parents should watch for information from their local school sites and districts, and contact their local administrators for specific information related to their children’s schools.

Sincerely,



Todd Barlow
Kings County Superintendent of Schools
www.kingscoe.org

