

Dear AUSD Families and Staff:

As we wrote earlier this evening, beginning tomorrow all absences will be excused from 3/13 to 3/20 if families want to keep their kids home.

Throughout the evening we have been monitoring public health bulletins, remaining in conversations with other districts, and continuously thinking and re-thinking our next steps in this situation with lots of professional and community input.

Tonight I would like to make two adjustments to our earlier message this evening:

1. Rather than simply offering to excuse absences for families who *want* to keep their students at home, **we are now actively encouraging all families who can do so to keep their students home from school beginning tomorrow.**

This lands short of full school closure, yet hopefully dramatically reduces the number of students at our schools while also preserving a transition window (albeit a shorter one than we initially conceived) for families with no immediate alternatives or options. Reduced numbers of students on campus also means a better environment for our employees who we are asking to support students for at least a few more days.

2. Tomorrow's emergency Board of Education meeting will at the very least include a discussion of full school closures that could begin as early as next week. As a result, all families should begin making alternative plans immediately to prepare for possible school closures Monday or Tuesday. The decision to fully close will be made in conversation with our school board tomorrow, but again families should begin making backup plans immediately.

Thank you all for hanging in with us on this situation and understanding the shifts in direction or action we will have to make periodically in this very fluid and unpredictable situation. I would like to emphasize that we are prepared to support students and families without alternatives or options tomorrow, but if you can keep your students at home, we believe it will help us to better serve our community as we contemplate more significant adjustments in the near future

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi
Superintendent

