



## SIERRA SANDS Unified School District

March 16, 2020 8:35am

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This is follow up information regarding school closures.

As you know, out of an abundance of caution and despite having no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Kern County at the time of writing this, the Kern County Director of Public Health Services, Matthew Constantine, and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary C. Barlow, have recommended the temporary closure of the county's schools as we all work together to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Sierra Sands will fully comply with the recommendation of our county's chief health official and county superintendent of schools. Accordingly, we are closed effective tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17 and currently plan to re-open schools on Tuesday, April 14.

As a parent/guardian of a student(s) in our district, I want to assure you that Sierra Sands intends to implement the closure of our schools in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order (N-26- 20). The Executive Order, issued on Friday, March 13 protects public schools from funding losses that might otherwise result from student attendance decline or the loss of required instructional days due to the coronavirus contagion. Significantly, the Governor's Order directs protected school districts, county offices of education and charters that must close schools to continue to deliver a variety of academic supports and resources. Governor Newsom plans to announce more details tomorrow.

I am confident our district is prepared to protect the safety of students moving forward and that we will be prepared to deliver the essential services to our children and families identified in the Governor's Executive Order.

Sierra Sands district staff understand that our students and families need us now. In the coming week, you will be receiving additional information from my office and your school principal that will provide greater clarity on education and student/family support services that will be made available to your student and family.

Please know the staff of Sierra Sands is united in the goal of continuing to provide needed, quality services for our students and their families.

I look forward to working with you in service to our children.

Sincerely,  
Dave Ostash,  
Superintendent