



**Superintendent**

Christopher Downing, Ed.D.

**Board of Education**

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March 17, 2020 (8:30 p.m)

Dear Anaheim Elementary School District Families,

This afternoon California Governor Newsom held a press conference in which he outlined the on-going response to the Coronavirus pandemic. During his comments, he emphasized that it is important to "make sure that learning is still occurring." He specifically mentioned distance and online learning.

As we have shared with you, because of Anaheim Elementary School District's on-going investment in technology, infrastructure, curriculum, and staff training, we have been able to ensure that our students have access to resources for distance and online learning, which are available in the student portal at [aesd.org](http://aesd.org). By sending home Chromebook computers with students, we were able to safely close our schools beginning this Monday, March 16, and follow the social distancing that health officials have recommended, while still ensuring students have important resources for continued learning at home.

During this afternoon's news conference, California Governor Gavin Newsom also said that he anticipated few schools, if any, would reopen before summer break. This is the first statement indicating that California schools may be closed into the summer. **To be clear, our District has not made any decisions at this time to close for the remainder of the school year.**

We expect there will be questions about this comment and we hope to get additional information tomorrow from State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond. Additionally, the Governor outlined that new guidelines for schools will be shared soon.

As we receive additional guidance from the Governor, the Orange County Department of Education, and OC Health Care Agency, you have our commitment that we will continue to provide you with accurate and timely information. As of now, our schools are scheduled to be closed through Friday, March 27th, but if we receive guidance to extend that period, we will notify you as soon as possible, always keeping in mind that the health and safety of our students, staff, and community is our top priority.

Sincerely,

Kind regards,  
Dr. Christopher Downing  
Superintendent

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