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Message from Superintendent Nelson

March 13, 2020

Fresno Unified, alongside several of our neighboring school districts, have been actively monitoring the changing conditions surrounding COVID-19. Following the declaration of a national emergency by our President today and a declaration of a state of emergency by Governor Newsom on March 4th, Fresno Unified has made the extremely difficult decision to close all schools for students beginning Monday, March 16th through April 13th, which is when our district is regularly scheduled to return from spring break. This includes all early learning and adult school activities as well. We are optimistic that we will resume classroom instruction after spring break, but we will continue to evaluate what is best for our kids and community.

We realize the significant impact of this decision on our families and our community, however, out of an abundance of caution we believe this to be the best course of action to help reduce the impact of any potential spread of the virus. Our kids are the reason we come to work every day, and there is nothing more important than preserving their health and well-being.

Details of how we will move forward in the coming days will soon be finalized and will be communicated throughout the weekend, including information on how we will continue providing meals for students starting Monday and a call center to answer questions from our families. To be clear, students should not report to their school sites on Monday. We will provide clear directions on how to access meals.

In order to further plan for supporting students during this unprecedented time, all staff should anticipate receiving district communications and ongoing updates over the weekend regarding the following:

- work schedules,
- development of optional educational resources by grade level and content area that could be utilized during this unplanned break, and
- the establishment of essential services.

Remember that we fill many roles far beyond schooling, such as serving over 100,000 meals daily, and it is crucial that we engage in this closure with an eye to how we can continually keep supporting our kids and their families, every day.

During this time of school closures, we highly recommend that students and families continue to practice health and safety measures such as handwashing and social distancing. This school

closure is put in place to help mitigate the spread of this virus and if our students and families congregate in groups, this can counteract these social distancing measures.

For updates, please continue to visit fresnounified.org.