



Hamilton County School District

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Rex L. Mitchell, Superintendent

School Board Members
Cheryl McCall – District 1
Gary Godwin – District 2
Saul Speights – District 3
Johnny Bullard – District 4
Sammy McCoy – District 5

To: Students, Parents, Faculty, and Staff of Hamilton County School District

From: Rex L. Mitchell, Superintendent

Date: March 17, 2020

Re: School Closure – COVID-19

I just completed a much-anticipated conference call with DOE concerning the next steps in dealing with the COVID-19 situation. Below are the key points shared during the call with additional guidance to come in the near future:

1. Hamilton County students will not return to school before April 15th and this will be reviewed in two-week increments. Again, no students will be back at school before Wednesday, April 15th.
2. From this point forward, we are not to have any mass gatherings exceeding 10 persons. This includes all school-sponsored activities. This will also apply to School Board meetings which in the near future will be postponed until a method of how to conduct these meetings is determined by the state.
3. For the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, all state assessments will be cancelled. Along with this announcement it was also disclosed that there will not be a school grade issued during the 2019-20 school year. How this will impact Seniors and impact from EOC's will be discussed in the near future. Information will also be provided on how this impacts third grade promotion, AP exams, and other assessments.
4. There will be additional information concerning the cancelation of the SAT / ACT test sessions that might be needed for meeting graduation requirements. There was not any specific discussion given at this time.
5. DOE will be working to secure waivers of statutes that pertain to required hours of attendance and other areas impacted by the cancellation of the regular day program.
6. Authority will be forthcoming as to how funds may be redirected from existing funding sources to help meet the various needs of the students.

School staff will be working the remainder of this week to finalize plans for instruction during this period of extended break. The week of March 23rd will be observed as our official Spring Break and instruction will resume on Monday, March 30th. Parents and students will be contacted by school staff prior to March 30th to speak individually with families to discuss specific student instruction while at home.

“Ensuring a Successful Future for Every Student”

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