



## New Waverly ISD

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Dr. Darol Hail  
Superintendent

Sheri O'Hagan  
Secretary

Dear Bulldog Family,

As you know, our country has seen rapid changes and impacts due to the coronavirus and the fears associated with it. We at New Waverly ISD believe that it is vitally important that we balance concerns with levelheaded approaches when dealing with situations such as this. We also understand that in many instances, it is the fears of people rather than the actual event that creates problems.

In the past 24 hours we have seen most school districts and higher education institutions announce that they will be closed next week. The main rationale has not been about stopping the virus but in attempting to prevent widespread passing of the virus. We have also seen Walker county make the proclamation for disaster.

As a result of these events, I feel it is in the best interests of our students to close school for the week of March 16-20. We plan to return to school on Monday, March 23, 2020.

I do not make this decision lightly and, in all honesty, make it quite hesitantly. As a district we realize the hardships this can place on families. There are numerous issues such as childcare, student competitions, and many others. However, we also want to balance safety and precaution with obligations.

This decision was made due to many factors:

- Almost all districts around us had closed. While we may or may not agree with the initial decision, it is important that the results of those decision not compromise New Waverly students. We felt it was not in our students' best interests to remain open while all other districts were closed.
- Our county has declared itself under disaster. This does create some further complications.
- We hold what the medical community says—closing in and of itself will not stop the virus. However, we are hopeful that by limiting widespread contact for another week we can help in slowing down it's progress.
- So many large gathering events have been closed and postponed for the reasons of reducing widespread spreading of the diseases that many felt the same was needed for school districts.

We know that some will applaud this decision and others will believe it is made in error. We fully understand both arguments. However, it is always our desire to decide in the best interests of our students, and if it turns out to be an error, we erred in the best interest of students.

We will pass along more information to you as it becomes available. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Darol Hail, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

"Together We Can"