

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 31, 2020 9:00 AM



## **PRESS RELEASE**

(OROVILLE, CA) –Butte County Superintendent of Schools Mary Sakuma has announced that Butte County school campuses will remain closed for in-person instruction at least through May 1, 2020.

“In consideration of the President’s announcement to the nation that he was extending the Stay At Home Guidance to the end of April, along with Governor Newsom’s ongoing Order to Shelter-in-Place, and in consultation with statewide and local school leaders, it was clear that this is the appropriate decision. With more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our County, our state and our nation, now more than ever, we need to heed the **Stay at Home/Shelter in Place Orders** to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” said Sakuma.

Sakuma expressed the importance of students staying engaged with their teachers and their schools through Distance Learning opportunities, including online learning and other means offered by their local schools. “Our campuses are closed, but school is still in session. I’m so proud of the work that our teachers and staff members throughout the county are doing to provide robust learning opportunities to our students. This has been a very quick transition, but I know that our school teams are up for the challenge. I’m also very proud of our nutrition teams throughout the county who are getting meals to kids, even during these closures. The leadership that our superintendents, principals, charter schools and other school leaders are providing is top-notch. There are also so many heroic support staff out there doing the important work that is so essential to the services we provide. I want to thank our parents and community members for their patience, understanding and support as we continue to navigate through these challenging times.”

### **Counseling and Mental Health Supports**

Butte County Office of Education, in partnership with Chico Unified School District, is engaging the services of Care Solace, an online resource for accessing mental health services, resources, and virtual therapy options. More information on these services will be available on the BCOE website beginning tomorrow.

### **Food and Nutrition Services**

Meals for students will continue to be distributed throughout the county. Please refer to your district’s website or Facebook page for locations, days and times for meal distribution. In many cases, families will be able to pick up meals twice a week for multiple days. You may also check the Butte County Office of Education website: [bcoe.org](http://bcoe.org) for a convenient map of distribution locations.