

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

(OROVILLE, CA) – This afternoon, after ongoing discussions with district superintendents and charter leaders, as well as Butte County Public Health, and at the urging of our State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Butte County Superintendent of Schools Mary Sakuma announced her decision to extend the closure of school campuses in Butte County for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, while focusing on distance learning for students.

Yesterday afternoon State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond sent a letter to County Superintendents making a strong recommendation to close school campuses statewide for in-person instruction through the remainder of the school year. Superintendent Thurmond stated: “The need for safety through social distancing warrants that we continue to keep our school campuses closed to students during this pandemic.” He further stated, “. . .it currently appears that our students will not be able to return to school campuses before the end of the school year.”

Today in a press briefing with Governor Newsom, Superintendent Thurmond reiterated his statements and the Governor expressed his thanks and support of the message that school campuses will not reopen but classes are in session.

Sakuma stated: “To be clear, the 2019-2020 school year is not over, it has just transitioned from classroom instruction to distance learning. Distance learning is taking place in different ways throughout our county and we encourage you to contact your students’ teachers and administrators for confirmation of specific plans. Distance learning can and will look differently for each school and each district. We ask for patience and understanding as we are all quickly transitioning into a new way of teaching and learning to meet the health and safety impacts of COVID-19. It’s challenging to our educators and our families to learn and communicate in a very new world, but working together, we can and will meet this challenge. As Superintendent Thurmond stated, “We have to rise to the challenge for our students! We are stronger together!”

Butte County educators are also very concerned about the social and emotional well-being of all of our students and are working on ways to stay connected even at a distance. In the coming days and weeks, districts will provide their families with information regarding how grades, graduation, transcripts, scholarships, summer school, and continued distance learning instruction will be handled.”

Once again I want to thank our families for being our partners in education and for your ongoing support of our schools.