



CALIFORNIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Michael S. Sears
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Dear California Area School District Families:

I wanted to personally reach out to you and provide an update on the actions that California Area School District is taking to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and support the health of our communities and the education of our children.

On March 23, 2020, the Governor issued a two-week extension to school closures. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced that all schools in the commonwealth would remain closed through at least April 6 because of the COVID-19 response efforts. The closure order could be extended beyond April 6 if necessary to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19. According to PDE, under the new timeline, school buildings would reopen on April 7 for two days to allow school administrators, teachers and other staff time to prepare classrooms, set up cafeterias, and schedule transportation. Students would return to school on April 9. The California Area School District is preparing for online digital instruction activities to start April 6. Teachers are preparing this week for the instruction and will be trained next week to use the technology to support the online instruction. You will be receiving more information from your child's principal soon regarding the delivery of the instruction.

Additionally, PDE announced on March 19, 2020, the cancellation of all PSSA testing and Keystone exams for the 2019-20 school year because of COVID-19. This includes the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA). PSSA testing was scheduled to begin April 20. Keystone testing was scheduled to begin May 11. The PASA testing window is open now; however, all testing was halted on Monday, March 16, when all public schools closed.

Your support, understanding, and patience during the COVID-19 national emergency is greatly appreciated. Many of you may be feeling isolated as we practice social distancing. I encourage you to find ways to connect with your family and friends during this difficult time. Make a phone call, text, email, video chat. Spend time with your children working on projects. Take a walk and look for rainbows and teddy bears in windows that remind us all that this too shall pass. While we cannot control this situation, we can control our response to it.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Sears
Superintendent