



**RUTHERFORD**  
COUNTY SCHOOLS

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
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Sunday, March 15, 2020

## An Update On the Recent Closure Of North Carolina Public Schools

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families:

I know that you have numerous questions and considerable uncertainty right now, and I want to assure you that Rutherford County Schools is fully committed to meeting the challenges we face alongside you as a school community. Please know that our entire school system is fully committed to serving our students well, and to safeguarding and supporting our community.

As you know, all North Carolina public schools will be closed for a period of at least two weeks, beginning Monday, March 16. I want to share important information with you about plans, activities, and arrangements for students over the next two weeks. I hope you find them helpful.

Monday, March 16, and Tuesday, March 17, will be regular working days for all school system employees even though our schools are closed to students. We will use that time to finalize plans and operations for remote learning, remote food service, and the coordination of student support services. It is our goal to launch remote learning and remote food service operations on Wednesday, March 18.

Students in grades six through twelve will access instructional content for our remote learning program using their school-issued personal devices, including iPads and MacBooks. Our remote learning program will also require deployment of iPads to the homes of students in grades three through five, a departure from our normal practice that we believe is necessary and appropriate given these unusual circumstances. We do not anticipate deployment of iPads to the homes of students in grades kindergarten through two, but we do anticipate providing packages of appropriate learning materials prepared by teachers and instructional support personnel. We anticipate leveraging technology solutions -- both online and mobile -- to provide students remote access to their teachers for instructional support while they are away from

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In compliance with federal law, Rutherford County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies, programs, activities, admissions, or employment.

school. We will provide additional details about our remote learning program over the next two days.

Through our remote food service program, our school nutrition program will provide school meals to all enrolled students while schools are closed over the next two weeks. Healthy school meals will be available to all enrolled students at no cost to you. We anticipate a variety of meal distribution options, including drive-through pick-up at each school, drive-through pick-up at specific community locations to be determined, and home delivery on an as-needed, case-by-case basis. We will also provide additional details about our remote food service program over the next two days.

We also recognize that the current public health crisis creates unique concerns and anxieties among children and adolescents. Each member of our student services team stands ready to support your children during this difficult time. School counselors and other student services personnel are prepared to provide remote support to your children while schools are closed. To access those services, please call your child's school.

Finally, talking to your children about the public health concerns facing us at this time can be difficult. Access to parent resources to help with those conversations are available through our school system's website at [rcsnc.org](http://rcsnc.org). In the coming days, we will also make additional information about remote services available on our website.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we work creatively to meet the needs of our students and our community. Please continue to practice good health habits during the coming days and weeks, and have a good evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Sutton', written in a cursive style.

David M. Sutton, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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