



RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT
David M. Sutton, Ed.D.

382 West Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043

Phone: (828) 288-2200
Fax: (828) 288-2490

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Sherry Bright, Chair
Phillip Morrow, Vice Chair
John Mark Bennett

Rick Ficklin
Brandon Gosey
Mike Hager
Brandi Nanney

Monday, March 23, 2020

An Update On the Recent Closure Of North Carolina Public Schools

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families:

Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as Rutherford County Schools adjusted instruction, school food service, and student support in response to growing public health concerns and the closure of North Carolina's public schools last week. During an emergency management briefing this afternoon, Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina's public schools will remain closed for students until **at least Friday, May 15, 2020**.

I want you to know that Rutherford County Schools remains fully committed to meeting the challenges of a changing environment that we face together as a school community. Today's announcement of an extended statewide school closure does not lessen our commitment to serving our students well, or to supporting and safeguarding our community during these anxious times. Rutherford County Schools will continue to operate the remote learning, remote food service, and remote student support programs that were launched last week. In the coming days, we will also continue to assess evolving state guidance, and we are prepared to make any additional adjustments necessary to ensure that we respond effectively to changing needs and opportunities.

We also recognize that the ongoing public health crisis creates unique concerns and anxieties among children and adolescents. Please remember that every 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.

We will share additional information and updates with you in the coming days and weeks. In the meantime, I encourage you to observe the latest public health guidance, to practice good health habits that reduce the risk of illness and transmission, and to contact your child's school with any questions you may have about remote services while our state's public schools are closed.

Sincerely,

David M. Sutton, Ed.D.
Superintendent

ALL RUTHERFORD COUNTY STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS.