April 2, 2020

Dear Kern High School District Staff,

My gratitude to you and my concern for your well-being are ongoing. These have been challenging times for all of us in the Kern High School District community. I am thankful for this group of professionals who have risen to the occasion, as you have done, over the past weeks. It is difficult to imagine that our campuses will be closed through the end of the school year; however, in consultation with the Kern County Department of Public Health, the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, and the other 46 Kern County School Districts, the Kern High School District will follow the recommendation of Governor Gavin Newsom and complete the 2019-20 school year utilizing alternative teaching methodologies, including online distance learning.

We will continue following the Governor’s orders, which include:

- Schools will continue to deliver high-quality educational opportunities to students, to the extent feasible, through distance learning.
- Schools will provide meals in non-congregate settings.
- Schools will continue to pay employees.

Please remember, this school year is not over. It is our professional obligation to continue providing quality educational opportunities for all of our students.

In the coming days and weeks, districts will receive clarity regarding how grades, graduation, transcripts, scholarships, summer school, continued distance learning instruction, and a myriad of other issues will be addressed. As information comes in and decisions are made, we will keep you informed.

At this point, we do not know when the current shelter at home order will be lifted. We understand how challenging this decision is for our entire KHSD community. Moreover, we are grateful to our staff, students, and parents for maintaining continuity of education, helping our schools address the nutritional needs of our students, and adhering to local and statewide safety guidelines during school closures.

As we have seen, this is a rapidly evolving situation where information and circumstances change quickly. I truly appreciate your patience, collaboration, creativity and the tremendous care that you have exhibited for our students during these very challenging times.

Sincerely,

Bryon Schaefer, Ed.D.
Superintendent