



March 12, 2020

Dear South Whidbey Staff, Students, Families and Community,

Today, Governor Jay Inslee gave a press conference ordering school districts in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties to close all schools from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, April 24, 2020.

**South Whidbey School District is CLOSED to students from Monday, March 16th through April 24, 2020** due to the following reasons:

- today, we received notice of a second confirmed case in Island County,
- our close proximity to Snohomish and King counties,
- our students attend programs at Sno-Isle Skills center in Mukilteo and at Running Start in various locations,
- many members of our community commute daily to these counties and,
- A significant number of community members that fall within the high risk category (which include a large number of vulnerable staff),

As mentioned previously, most children are not ill, however, they are likely the carriers of the Coronavirus (COVID 19). Many of our staff at South Whidbey School District are in the high risk categories. We still recommend staff, families and community members practice good hygiene skills. Social distancing (keeping at least 6 feet away from unknown persons) is still the best defense. Please understand that as a community we need to protect ourselves and others. This is to "[flatten the curve](#)"

We will reevaluate before April 27, 2020 regarding the return to school date. This re-entry may be delayed to a later date. For now:

- All buildings will be completely closed.
- Take belongings home by the end of school on Friday, March 13, 2020 (books, lunchboxes, jackets, etc).
- All school related events are canceled.
- All sports canceled, including practices until at least April 24.
- After March 23rd, the only building open is the district office to process essential business and for planning purposes.
- Teachers will provide resources for students to help maintain skills.
- At this time, we will not be providing online instruction or assessed instruction.
- Principal Patton will be working with seniors to assure graduation requirements are met.

Over the next week or two, we will determine food service and childcare options and announce plans as they evolve. OSPI is continuing to provide direct guidance on expectations for employees in terms of work, assisting in student instruction guidance, and ensuring equity across the state for all. As that guidance evolves we will continue to provide information to all.

Local basic need resource agencies are working together to ensure families will have access to food and other needed resources throughout the pandemic - at least to the best of everyone's abilities. We will provide updated information on our website as it becomes available. [Readiness To Learn](#) is putting together an online resource guide that includes the extended services being offered specifically due to COVID 19. A link to the Readiness to Learn resource guide is available on our [website](#).

Please check the front page of our website for updates and links to home based online resources. Students have online options to maintain skills. We will be looking at expanding opportunities, but this is not going to replace education. Grades will freeze as of March 13, 2020. All work done from home will not be graded however, we suggest students maintain their skills through reading and online activities.

Please remember, this is an unprecedented event and is evolving rapidly. The legislature is considering action to address graduation timelines and course credit. However, it is understood at this time that the school year will not continue past June 19, 2020. We will know more as time goes on. We are working with the Governor, OSPI, Superintendents across the state, public health advisors from across the state along with our local community leaders and administration to do what is best for our students, staff, families and community members. At this time, reducing the spread of this disease is the best strategy for all.

Please check out the SWSD website often for updates ([www.sw.wednet.edu](http://www.sw.wednet.edu)). We will continue to communicate through this closure as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jo Moccia, Superintendent