



Inyo County Office of Education
166 Grandview Drive · Bishop, California 93514 · (760) 873-3262
Barry D. Simpson, County Superintendent

TO: Inyo County School Districts
FROM: Barry Simpson, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: School Closures due to COVID-19
DATE: April 2, 2020

After consultation with and support from Inyo Public Health Director Dr. James Richardson I am formally recommending the closure of all of the schools in Inyo County for the remainder of this school year. While all school facilities will remain closed, school will remain in session and learning will continue. The Inyo County Office of Education and each district in our county will devote all of their energy and resources into distance learning through the end of this school year.

I realize this recommendation and outcome is disheartening to many. While we cannot predict the future, one thing is certain, communities that aggressively follow social distancing and stay at home orders are more successful in combating the COVID-19 virus. It is paramount that we protect our community.

For these reasons, I am requesting that each school district hold a special board meeting as soon as possible to address school closures through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

As professional educators I firmly believe we can meet the challenges ahead and I know that when this crisis is over we will be stronger than we were when it began.

Sincerely,

Barry D. Simpson
Inyo County Superintendent of Schools

Board Resolution 2020-03

**BY THE INYO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DECLARING EMERGENCY
CONDITIONS EXIST AT SCHOOLS AND OFFICES IN THE DISTRICT AND
MODIFYING GRADUATION/PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS
CURRENTLY ENROLLED**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 is a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a State of Emergency due to the outbreak and spread of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, as of March 18, 2020, there were 1,063 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 21 cases reported resulting in death in California; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has issued Executive Order N-33-20 requiring all California residents to “shelter in place” and all but essential functions have been halted or restricted; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has indicated that schools may be closed for an undetermined duration; and

WHEREAS, there has been significant disruption to the instruction program for students which prevents them from complying with existing credit, hours of instruction, and graduation and/or promotion requirements; and

WHEREAS, strict compliance with various statutes and regulations would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate action necessary for the wellbeing of students to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on instruction; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of students, staff, and the community to prepare for and implement measures to respond to the closure of schools; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that a wide variety of instructional options are available, including but not limited to distance learning for credit recovery; and

WHEREAS, approval of this resolution would allow the superintendent to immediately respond to rapidly changing health and safety concerns and the educational needs of students by modifying instructional programs in a manner that poses the least harm to students as determined by the Superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inyo County Board of Education determines that the circumstances described in this resolution herein constitute an emergency condition for which immediate action is necessary; and that there is a closure of all school facilities for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the superintendent to exert maximum flexibility to respond to the emergency conditions for students, including but not limited to, waiving instructional minutes, setting an end date for classes and grading periods, providing distance learning, credit recovery, and otherwise modifying graduation and promotional requirements.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Inyo County Board of Education at 166 Grandview Drive, Bishop, on the 3rd Day of April, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: _____ 5 _____ NOES: _____ 0 _____ ABSENT: _____ 0 _____ ABSTENTIONS: _____ 0 _____

Signature:  _____ Date: 4/3/2020
Superintendent of Schools and Secretary to the Board, Barry D. Simpson