



**Dear Greater Albany Public Schools Parents and Community Members,**

Our community, our state, and much of the world are now dealing with an unprecedented public health crisis. Yesterday evening, Governor Kate Brown issued an Executive Order extending the closure of all public schools through April 28<sup>th</sup>. You can read the Order [here](#).

This action is intended to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to protect Oregonians at the highest risk of contracting the disease, the Governor said in her Order. “I also recognize that school closures disproportionately impact Oregon’s most vulnerable children and families,” but “action is necessary to minimize disruptions...on Oregon’s health care system, first responders, and emergency workers.”

Governor Brown’s order will ensure that schools continue to receive funding during this closure so that employees will not be laid off and vital services, including meals for students, can continue.

In our district, our administrative team is meeting daily and working diligently to address all of these changing concerns in a timely manner. We will continue to work on the following resources and services available during the extended closure:

- **LEARNING PLANS DURING CLOSURE:** We are working to deliver supplemental education and learning supports to students to the extent practicable through independent study and other options. We are working as quickly as possible to put plans in place for this extended cancellation. We are working with the state regarding our different options and equity considerations as we move forward. In the interim we have put together a sample daily schedule with links to lesson plans and other resources available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- **HOUSEHOLD TECHNOLOGY ACCESS SURVEY:** We have created a household technology access survey to assess the needs of our families regarding internet connectivity and available devices. We ask that all families please take the survey in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).
- **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND GRADUATION:** We are working with the Oregon Department of Education on what this extended closure means for our seniors. Diploma requirements are being discussed by the state and its districts. We are working on plans to ensure that all seniors meet their essential skills requirements and we will be working with students to ensure they meet requirements for graduation.



- **BREAKFASTS, LUNCHESES, AND ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY:** Free breakfast and lunch are available to all children age 1-18 every weekday at 13 different locations. All the times and locations can be found at [bit.ly/GAPSMeals](https://bit.ly/GAPSMeals). We are also working with FISH on providing home food delivery of large Snacks for Packs for those in need. If you are experiencing food insecurity and are unable to pick up these meals, please contact FISH directly and let them know that the district sent you. They are open Monday through Friday, and you may pick up food boxes at the FISH office. If you are interested in volunteering and/or donating, please contact FISH directly at (541) 928-4460.
- **CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE:** We are exploring ways to support child care for first responders, emergency workers, and health care professionals.
- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** For additional information you can access the Oregon Department of Education's coronavirus webpage here - [ODE COVID-19 page](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Schools are essential to communities. We know that extending the school closure will cause difficulties for many families who rely on their schools for meals, health care, and a safe place to be during the day. Since the COVID-19 coronavirus first emerged in Oregon, we have followed the guidance of our public health agency partners, including the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education, in taking preventative steps to make our staff and students safe.

Please make every effort to follow published health-related guidelines such as regular handwashing and social distancing. During this health crisis, it is not recommended that students congregate with groups of people or friends. We still have time as a community to slow down the spread of coronavirus by working together.

**BEDTIME STORIES:** Please continue to join us live on Facebook at 7:30 p.m. for Bedtime Stories for kids, with school and district staff reading a bedtime book in both English and Spanish. This week, at 8:30 p.m., a special Spanish-version Batman reading for older students is also being shared. Readings will be streamed live on the district Facebook page ([fb.com/greateralbanypublicschools](https://fb.com/greateralbanypublicschools)) or shared on the district page from school Facebook pages. This is one way for us to come together and share a comforting moment.

We are in uncharted waters, but please know that Greater Albany Public Schools, in collaboration with local and state authorities, is doing its best to support our broader community as the reality of this unprecedented crisis continues to evolve.

We will continue to provide timely updates as plans are put in place. All of the latest information and resources can always be found on [albany.k12.or.us/district/COVID-19](https://albany.k12.or.us/district/COVID-19) and the district



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[Facebook](#) page. Please direct any questions to [communications@albany.k12.or.us](mailto:communications@albany.k12.or.us) or send a message via the [Contact Us](#) page.

**Finally, we would like to share these suggestions from the CDC on how we can all take care ourselves and our family members during this difficult situation:**

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, and get plenty of sleep.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- Call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row.

Sincerely

Melissa Goff  
Superintendent  
Greater Albany Public Schools