

Good evening SPS Families,

We have reviewed in detail the information and recommendations provided today by the State Department of Public Health, our local Health Department and the State Department of Education. The recommendations of the health professionals overwhelmingly indicate that schools should be closed for two weeks. Therefore, effective Monday March 16th through Friday March 27th, the Southington Public Schools will be closed. The closure includes all activities including athletics, extra-curricular activities, student clubs, etc. At this time, we anticipate that schools will reopen Monday March 30th unless additional information dictates another course of action. Obviously, there are many unknowns right now and we will continue to gather information and to update you on a regular basis. We will analyze our options regarding potential make-up days including use of the April break if appropriate. In addition, we will further evaluate the potential for distance learning to account for some or all the make-up days. For your information, the Governor's "waiver of the 180 day" rule announced today, is not what it seems. The waiver only takes effect if a district has used all the days available up to June 30th and the available April vacation period. We will share additional information gleaned from today's Commissioner of Education's conference call at some point tomorrow.

We anticipate that there will be many questions and we will continue to work with all our families and staff to answer questions and to help determine a course of action. I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank all our staff publicly for their dedication and commitment. There are other districts who had to close school tomorrow without any real warning because their staff immediately began to call in sick right after the Governor's press conference and the news of some school closings. I am proud to say that has not occurred with our staff. Our staff truly have the best interests of our students in their hearts and minds.

Please anticipate additional communications and information as this situation continues to evolve. I imagine we will be engaging in a good deal of problem solving to come up with appropriate answers and responses to questions and ideas.

Respectfully,

Tim

Timothy F. Connellan
Superintendent of Schools
Southington Public Schools
200 North Main Street
Southington, CT 06489
Phone: 860-628-3202 Fax: 860-628-3205