



March 17, 2020

Dear LISD Students, Parents, and Staff:

During the most difficult of times, our schools and community have always found meaningful ways to work together for the good of our students, their families and our staff. With this being said, dealing with the threat of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has only brought us closer together to safeguard the well-being of each other. Collaborative discussions with city officials, health department authorities and school personnel have led to the development of comprehensive plans designed to protect our students and staff while providing instructional continuity and support services to our learning community. It is important to note that the primary goal at this time is to minimize the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus by reducing the number of people interacting with each other in our schools.

Therefore, in an abundance of caution, Laredo ISD will extend Spring Break for an additional week for all students and employees. Classes will tentatively resume on Monday, March 30, 2020. Our decision was made based on a thorough review of information received from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the City of Laredo Health Department, the Texas Education Agency and the Office of the Governor of Texas.

All students, parents and staff are reminded to practice COVID-19 health precautions. These include frequent hand washing, the sanitizing of homes and facilities, social distancing and the monitoring of personal health. If you or your loved ones are developing flu-like symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, chest congestion, body aches), please call your doctor and the Laredo Health Department Hotline at (956) 795-4954 for additional guidance and information. Please visit LISD social media for additional safeguards.

Rest assured that instruction and support services will continue for our students during this period of time. Students will receive instruction via technology and/or through instructional packets developed by our professional staff. Given the loss of instructional time, Governor Abbott has also waived 2019-2020 student assessment requirements. We will be sharing additional information regarding these requirements as the year progresses. To further support our students, the LISD Child Nutrition Program is also planning to provide "Grab and Go" meals for our children. Parents will soon be notified of locations and meal pick-up times.

All of these measures are temporary. However, these measures may be expanded at a later date depending on the status of the spread of the virus. If it becomes necessary, Laredo ISD may implement a wider closure policy. Any changes made to our schedule will be communicated to LISD families via SchoolMessenger calls, the LISD website and LISD social media.

Please know that we are here for you and our students. With your support, we will get through these anxious times and meet our educational mission. Laredo ISD cares about our students, our staff and our community.

Respectfully,

Sylvia G. Rios

Dr. Sylvia G. Rios
Laredo ISD Superintendent of Schools