

# **Alamance-Burlington Schools**

March 15, 2020 Update & Reminders



## **ABSS Community**

The current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) health issue is an evolving situation that changes daily, including Governor Cooper's executive order on Saturday, March 14 that all North Carolina public K-12 schools are required to close for at least two weeks, beginning Monday, March 16.

ABSS has plans in place for continuation of learning and district services like school nutrition, high school course registration and more keeping in mind that our community depends on us to provide stability and continuity for our students. At this time, we can share the following updates:

## **Superintendent's Authority**

During the March 10, 2020 Board of Education meeting, the school board voted in favor of waiving policy in order to allow the Superintendent to make necessary and immediate decisions during this current health emergency.

## **School Office Hours**

The ABSS district office at 1712 Vaughn Road will remain open to serve the community. Each school office will remain open with posted hours of operation on the office doors. The media center at each school will be open for ABSS staff to be able to use internet access for distance learning.

## **Athletic Events & Facilities**

The North Carolina High School Association has postponed all school athletic events March 13-April 6, 2020. At that time, they will assess the situation and make any further recommendations if necessary. Our middle school athletic teams will follow the same protocol.

All ABSS athletic facilities and fields are closed for use March 13-April 6, 2020. Coaches and staff are prohibited from meeting with sports teams and players on or off-site. This should be considered as a moratorium on athletics and practices during this time period.

## **Concerns about student/staff with connections to COVID-19 patients**

Health officials assure us that a member of the Alamance County Health Department (ACHD) will notify individuals as needed if they are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). If a staff member or family has questions about whether or not they may have been exposed or if they should stay home, refer them to the ACHD.

## **Privacy Laws**

State and federal law prohibits the school system from sharing confidential information about students and employees. While we understand that parents may have concerns, they do not have the legal right to know information about a student or staff member's country of origin, health status, places traveled or family members.

## **Continuity of Learning**

ABSS has plans in place to continue learning during the mandatory 2-week school closure period and longer as needed.

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High Schools: The ABSS technology department is assisting high schools with equipment needs for High School distance learning that is scheduled to begin on Thursday, March 19. High schools have developed a schedule for students to pick up Chromebooks for at-home use in conjunction with teacher lesson plans for online learning. On Monday, March 16, each high school will provide additional details regarding the device deployment and online learning plans.

Middle schools have developed learning plans that will be shared with students/parents, beginning Monday, March 16.

Elementary schools sent learning materials home with students on Friday, March 13 for one week of instruction. Schools will begin developing a second week of materials on Monday, March 16 and provide parents with information about pick-up or delivery options.

## Students with Special Needs

ABSS is using the guidance provided by the NC Department of Public Instruction's Exceptional Children's Division. A FAQ document provided to all schools and central services staff will continue to be updated as we receive additional questions related to serving our students with special needs.

## School Nutrition

North Carolina has received a waiver from the USDA for flexibility in developing school nutrition plans for use during the health crisis. ABSS will announce feeding sites across the county similar to the annual summer feeding program. Feeding sites will open for lunch on Tuesday, March 17.

## School Cleaning

March 13, 2020 | ABSS has partnered with our contract custodial service provider, The Budd Group, to ensure that our cleaning staff is well stocked with an adequate supply of commercial grade disinfectants appropriate for effective cleaning of touch surfaces in schools. These supplies include highly effective cleansers, recommended by the CDC, for combatting the novel COVID-19 virus. During the mandated shut-down period, access to school facilities will be restricted with the exception of the school office and the media center for school staff. School custodial staff will use this time to implement deep cleaning procedures in all school buildings. The media centers and school front offices will be cleaned each evening by custodial staff after daily use.

Staff or students who wish to retrieve personal items from school should do so on Monday if possible in advance of the beginning of the deep cleaning process at each school. If unable to take care of this on Monday, visit the school during office hours to be escorted in the building to retrieve personal items.