

April 6, 2020

Dear Bellevue Learning Community,

Today, Governor Jay Inslee announced that Washington schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. During this closure, all schools in the district will remain closed. Public health authorities have warned that without the continued restrictions the rate of infection will overwhelm the healthcare system.

We know that continued school closures are difficult on students and families, staff and the entire community. This will likely be disappointing news for students, who miss their friends and teachers. It will be especially difficult for seniors graduating this spring. The extended closure also raises numerous questions for students and families.

Please know that we are committed to the success of all our students and providing timely updates to families. Next week during Spring Break, we will share with you our detailed plan for the remainder of the year.

Please also know that our commitments remain firm in these areas:

- Refining and improving our learning plan with the new understanding that all of us will finish the current school year in this new model.
- Supporting academic success of all our students so that no one is left behind. This also includes our graduating seniors as they make the transition to their next steps in life. We will find appropriate ways to celebrate this milestone in their lives.
- Providing continued critical support to families, including the areas of meals and technology support. We want our families to be nourished both nutritionally and educationally.
- Working collaboratively with our labor partners, including the Bellevue Education Association in designing and implementing learning changes in response to COVID-19.

We are awaiting additional information from state authorities on whether school facilities will be open to provide summer school.

Staying home and limiting person-to-person contact appears to be making a difference in slowing the spread of COVID-19, but those measures need to continue in order to have long-term effectiveness. Please stay home as much as possible and stay healthy. Additional resources can be found on our [COVID-19 page](#). The district and principals will distribute messages to families when we have additional information that will help our community make plans for the future.

With everyone's help, we will continue to provide connection and support for our entire community and advance our vision to affirm and inspire each and every student to learn and thrive as creators of their future world.

In partnership,

Ivan Duran  
Superintendent  
Bellevue School District