

# ***Bristol Borough School District***

*1776 Farragut Avenue  
Bristol, PA 19007*

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Superintendent of Schools

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March 13, 2020

Dear Bristol Borough Community,

At 11:45AM today, the Bucks County Commissioners ordered a Declaration of Disaster Emergency and the activation of the county's Emergency Management Center for support and to respond and coordinate efforts with local municipalities and other partners.

In close coordination with the superintendents of all Bucks County public school Districts, the Executive Director of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, the Director of the Bucks County Health Department, the Director of Bucks County Emergency Management Services, and the Bucks County Commissioners, Bristol Borough School District will be closing effective Friday March 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM through Sunday, March 29, 2020. This period of closure could be extended further, based on any number of rapidly changing variables.

It is possible that executive orders from either the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States federal government will further expand upon or define this period of closure. At this time, this decision has not yet been officially mandated by either state or federal government authorities. This decision has, however, been fully discussed locally with all public school leaders and the appropriate county government officials.

This closure no doubt raises many more questions than answers. The district will work in full cooperation with local, state, and federal authorities to compile information and resources that speak to the closure and its impact on the community.

This decision was not made quickly or without significant reflection and discussion. In fact, the county's school leaders have spent countless hours working in-district and across the county to evaluate the ever-changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic. We worked to establish best practices following CDC guidelines, in partnership with the Bucks County Health Department and Emergency Management Services leaders, to limit social interactions in an effort to proactively protect against community transmission. We were hopeful that these measures would enable our district to remain open using social distancing, modifications to schedules, visitors, and other activities. With the Commonwealth of PA executive order yesterday that essentially shutdown neighboring Montgomery County, the impact on local school district daily operations has been substantial. In fact, on a call with the superintendents and county officials, the superintendents unanimously supported a countywide closure for all Bucks County public schools.

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Therefore, Bristol Borough School District will cease providing all services to all children/students effective March 13, 2020 at 6:00PM. This includes all special education and related services. All meetings, activities, athletics, and related school events are postponed and subject to reschedule or cancellation. No community use of the school facilities will be permitted during this time. No transportation will be provided. No after school programming will be offered. Everything, in short, is cancelled or postponed.

School personnel and students are prohibited from entering school facilities; however, a limited number of essential staff may be able to perform essential functions such as running payroll, cleaning facilities, maintaining communication systems, and providing security as needed. This is to be determined.

All Bristol Borough school employees and contractors will be contacted shortly via email with additional information.

The Bristol Borough School District has applied for a waiver to allow us to provide meals for students during this time period. We will keep you posted on the results of that waiver.

It is uncertain at this time, absent clear direction from the Commonwealth, about the status of these days and whether they will need to be made up in the future. As we learn more, I will continue to update you.

Please trust that the Bristol Borough School District is doing our best to keep everyone informed as new and additional information is received. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Rose Minniti at 215-781-1000 ext. 1010 or email her at [rminniti@bbsd.org](mailto:rminniti@bbsd.org). We will post any additional information on our website, [www.bbsd.org](http://www.bbsd.org) under the Coronavirus tab.

Thank you, stay safe, and know that during these unprecedented times.

*Rose Minniti*

Dr. Rose Minniti  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bristol Borough School District