



# San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

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March 16, 2020

San Marcos CISD Families and Staff,

I know San Marcos families are searching for answers regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). I am keenly aware that our decisions impact students and their extended family who may be susceptible to illness. My team is in daily contact with local, county, and state officials. My focus is to ensure that our students, staff, and families are safe. Right now, try not to worry about academics, the calendar, graduation or trips. In a time like this, it is more important to take care of one another by practicing healthy habits and social distancing. Everything else will take care of itself.

San Marcos CISD has created four stages of response.

**Stage 1:** Daily operational procedures with intensified sanitizing protocols; all students and staff report to school. Prior to spring break, we were in Stage 1.

**Stage 2:** All staff report to work. Parents have the choice to send children to school or keep them at home without penalty. Over the last few days, we were anticipating to be in Stage 2 when we returned from spring break.

**Stage 3:** All teachers and all students stay at home and SMCISD moves to at-home learning. Essential staff reports to work. The Superintendent's Cabinet will determine essential staff and will contact the employees.

**Stage 4:** All students and all staff stay home, and SMCISD would not be in operation. There would be no instruction during this time.

On March 15, Hays County and the City of San Marcos declared a state of disaster. I understand that proactive measures are better to reactive measures in terms of controlling the number of new cases.

Therefore, because of the County's first presumptive case of COVID-19 and out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our students and staff, I am moving San Marcos CISD to Stage 3 on March 23 and will be suspending normal school operations through April 5 to help prevent exposure to students, staff, and the community. Please understand that this is the minimum that school may be suspended. The reality is that this is not a short-term solution and more information will be forthcoming.

The district is finalizing logistics on distance learning options for students. More information and guidance will be made available on our website this week and will be messaged to SMCISD families. Beginning Monday, March 23 meals will be provided at the following times and locations:

Breakfast: 8AM-9:30AM (Travis Elementary and San Marcos HS)

Lunch: 11:30AM-1PM (Travis Elementary, San Marcos HS, and Redwood Baptist Church)

Anyone 18 years old and under are free. Adult meals will be \$3.50

This is a rapidly-developing issue and continues to change daily. We remain in close communication with health authorities and we will communicate an update with our community as quickly as possible. I want to thank our students, parents, teachers, administrators, and central office staff members as we deal with this unprecedented issue. Together, we #StrikeAsOne.

Sincerely,

**Michael Cardona**

**Superintendent of Schools**