



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

April 9, 2020

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor, State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
900 North Third St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards:

On behalf of the Louisiana Department of Education, I write to you with the understanding you are considering whether to extend the closure of school facilities for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year in response to the ongoing public health crisis. While local school systems set their own calendars, most school systems traditionally end their school years in the final weeks of May.

If an extension of school facility closures is approved for safety, it is critical for learning to continue. Every community needs a plan for continued learning. This not only ensures academic progress and social support for students and families; it provides stability during an uncertain and unprecedented time.

The Department recognizes school systems will need plans for continued learning opportunities possibly during the summer and especially for the upcoming school year that are unique to their resources, student population, and community needs. As such, the Department stands committed to supporting school systems in the development and implementation of those plans to ensure every child has access to education.

The Department also remains committed to ensuring every child continues to have access to nutritious meals in their community through established school feeding sites and programs.

Our children deserve nothing less.

Thank you,

DocuSigned by:

Beth Scioneaux

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Beth Scioneaux
Acting State Superintendent

Louisiana Believes