



SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 13, 2020

Dear Sumter School District Families,

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the best way to prevent COVID-19 infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. The CDC has advised that community-based interventions, including social distancing and cancelling public gatherings, can help slow the spread of COVID-19. As a safety precaution and proactive measure to reduce the risk of exposure, Sumter School District has made the difficult decision to suspend all in-state and out-of-state travel for employees and students until further notice. We are currently waiting on guidance from the South Carolina High School League to make a determination regarding athletics; however, effective immediately all other after-school events will be cancelled or rescheduled including concerts, family nights, PTA meetings, etc.

This difficult decision errs on the side of caution to help ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our students, staff, families, and community. Schools will work with all parties involved to resolve any financial concerns related to travel. We appreciate your patience in this process as it will be a cumbersome task.

As a reminder, Sumter School District follows coronavirus-related guidance from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), which in turn works closely with the CDC. DHEC has protocols in place should anyone in South Carolina become infected with COVID-19. If a student or staff member in Sumter School District were to become infected with COVID-19, the district would follow the recommendations of DHEC, CDC, South Carolina Department of Education, and South Carolina Governor's Office in responding.

District and school leaders realize the suspension of travel will cause disappointment to many of our students looking forward to school trips. Please understand the health, safety, and well-being of our entire Sumter School District Family are our top priority. As new information and public health recommendations become available, further guidance will be issued.

For the children,

Dr. Penelope E. Martin-Knox
Superintendent

Vision - Sumter School District will educate all students to embrace diversity, act responsibly, and contribute positively in a competitive, global society.

Mission - The mission of Sumter School District is to equip students to be responsible, successful, and productive citizens in a global society.

Sumter School District is an equal opportunity employer.