



March 17, 2020

Era ISD:

Although there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Cooke County, in an abundance of caution, Era ISD has made the decision to extend Spring Break to include the week of March 23-27, alongside our neighboring school districts in Cooke. This decision for this extended closure comes as a result of direct collaboration with state and county health officials and other education leaders. In addition to protecting our children and families from this illness to the extent possible, this decision is largely an attempt to do our part in helping to “flatten the curve” – to spread out the incidence of serious illness so that our local health systems do not become overwhelmed and unable to care for those patients who will be hit hardest by this virus.

We ask for your patience as we navigate this unprecedented situation and work through additional details. Era Staff will be meeting next week and attempting to coordinate and plan ongoing services (both academic and otherwise) to help meet the needs of our students and families during this time. As we have more specifics about what those services will look like, we will communicate those directly to parents as soon as we are able.

We know that you all likely have many additional questions at this time, and while we don't have answers for all of them now, we want to try to share the answers we do know as quickly as possible. To that end:

- This closure includes the cancellation of all extracurricular activities (including all practices), all school events, and non-school events during this same period. The UIL has issued a suspension of all spring events through March 29th, and at present, is still planning to allow for all district and post-district contests to proceed (on modified schedules where appropriate).
- The Jr/Sr Prom has currently been rescheduled from March 28th to April 25th (same venue).
- There will be no additional STAAR testing this spring. Both the Governor's office and the TEA Commissioner have confirmed this. More details to come, but for now, students and parents need not worry about state testing this semester.
- The Texas Education Agency is continuing to provide guidance regarding course credit, compulsory attendance, accountability standards, and school funding. Suffice it to say for now that we believe that this initial extended break will not require us to extend our school year beyond our current district calendar.
- We are hopeful to be able to return to “school as normal” very soon, but also want to acknowledge for you now that this closure could ultimately be extended further. Era ISD will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation prior to our planned reopening of school on Monday, March 30. Please resist the urge to get caught up in the rumor mill on social media or otherwise on issues related to Era ISD – we will communicate directly with you across all district platforms as soon as official updates become available.

Thank you very much for your patience and support as we work diligently to take steps to support the continued education of our students for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. Please visit www.eraisd.net and click on the “COVID 19” link on the homepage to find additional resources.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Thompson, Superintendent