



Regional School Unit No. 18

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Carl Gartley
Superintendent of Schools

Keith Morin
Chief Academic Officer

Gary Smith
Chief Operations Officer

Good afternoon,

I am writing to inform you that RSU 18 schools will be closed starting Monday, March 16 and will remain closed through Friday, March 27. At that time, we will consider a decision on a potential longer closure based on the facts available. On Monday of this week, staff will report to work at 8:00 A.M. Monday all staff will participate in professional development activities so that we may prepare to provide families with the resources we can for students. There will be more to follow on this topic on Monday and Tuesday from your building principal.

This closure is in response to the call by medical professionals to implement practices of social distancing as we all work to minimize the spread of (COVID-19). This closure is not the result of any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our immediate community, though we know the virus is present in our state. Along with other schools in Central Maine, we are taking this proactive approach out of an abundance of caution and in an effort to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 cases in Maine.

We know that educational resources or distance learning will not fully replace the classroom settings that students experience each day. We know there will be flaws, but we are determined to provide what we can for students, and we ask for your patience and flexibility as we work through this process.

Students and parents will be able to drop by the schools to pick up belongings or instructional materials at times designated by your school principals. Please be on the lookout for follow-up letters from your child’s principal. For students who receive special services, parents will be receiving information from our Director of Instructional Support, Cheryl Mercier.

Much more information will be forthcoming on this closure, but I wanted to communicate this news to you as soon as possible so you may begin planning for childcare and other concerns that will be raised by this decision.

During this closure, we ask that you assist by minimizing group meetings of students and adults. Practicing social distancing and good personal hygiene are the two greatest steps we can take to protect our community from the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to stay in touch with you throughout the next two weeks. We understand this is a time of great uncertainty, and we are here to support you and your children while at the same time doing our best to promote healthy practices for all in the community.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and our schools.

Sincerely,

Carl Gartley
Superintendent of Schools
RSU 18

“Proudly serving the children in the Belgrade and China Lakes Regions.”
Belgrade - China - Oakland - Rome - Sidney