

March 13, 2020

Dear Huntsville City Schools Family,

I am writing to update you on the recent announcement from the Alabama State Department of Public Health that Alabama has its first confirmed case of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The case is in Montgomery, Alabama. As part of that announcement, Alabama State Department of Education Superintendent Dr. Eric Mackey explained that schools will remain open. However, he recommended canceling all field trips. Importantly, he also recommended that school districts begin taking steps to limit and cancel public gatherings of 500 people or more as soon as possible, and no later than March 20, 2020. In order to ensure that our students and their families – who pour so much into preparing for the types of events – have a reasonable opportunity to complete currently scheduled events, my team and I have made the following decisions:

1. Huntsville City Schools will not cancel any of the events currently scheduled for this Friday through Sunday, March 13th through 15th, 2020.
2. Except for athletic events, all currently planned events and field trips will be canceled beginning Monday, March 16th, through Thursday, April 30th, 2020. This includes, but is not limited to, all plays, concerts, recitals, career fairs, dances, and other school related gatherings. Your child's school principal will send additional communication regarding affected school events.
3. Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, Huntsville City Schools will be limiting attendance at all athletic events. Each player will receive six vouchers, per athletic event, to give to people of their choice. No one will be admitted without a voucher.
4. Effective today, Friday, March 13, 2020, all non-school related rental contracts between outside organizations and the Huntsville City Schools Facility Use Office are canceled through April 30, 2020. The Facilities Use Coordinator will be in touch with individual renters.

The above measures are consistent with the steps being taken by the other area superintendents and with Dr. Mackey, with whom we are in regular communication.

Ultimately, attending any of the events this weekend is entirely up to the discretion of our families and community members. For anyone attending any events this weekend, please continue to take precautions to limit the spread of germs. This includes regular handwashing, the regular use of hand sanitizer, and staying home if you are feeling sick or running a fever.

Please keep in mind that this is an ever-changing situation, and we are continuously receiving new guidance as the national situation changes. My utmost concern is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

Christie Finley
Superintendent