

3-26-20

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TO: LOCAL NEWS MEDIA  
FROM: PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS, JASPER, GEORGIA  
RE: SCHOOL CLOSURE EXTENDED

Jasper, GA – Suspension of traditional school classes in Georgia has been extended through April 24, according to an announcement by Governor Brian Kemp on Thursday. This date could change to a later date depending upon directives by Governor Kemp.

The local board of education suspended traditional classes at its March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to be effective March 16-27. Later Governor Kemp extended that period through March 31 as part of his Public Health Emergency powers.

According to Pickens County Interim Superintendent Dr. Charles Webb, all buildings and worksites are expected to remain on “hard lock-outs” through April 24. Any change in employees returning to worksites prior to that date may be announced later. This decision is being made in response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases reported by the Public Health Department in Pickens County and throughout the state.

Lunchroom workers and bus drivers are continuing to prepare and deliver weekly non-perishable meals to children 18 years and younger, with a schedule for either one or two days per week. Since March 16, bus drivers have been delivering these mid-day meals to more than 500 students each delivery day in various locations throughout the county.

“Generally, we are getting favorable responses to the online learning system that was introduced March 16,” said Webb, “and we are continuing to work through various problems in delivery as they occur. I am proud of the flexibility by our students and the creativity by our teachers.”

“We are in hopes of returning to school after April 24,” added Webb. “At this particular time looking forward, this date seems to give us more flexibility in preparing for students returning to the buildings. Nevertheless, we are prepared to continue online learning if traditional school has to be extended even later.”

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