

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-26-20

WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS responses to the threat of COVID-19, including decisions about schools, should be informed by and commensurate with scientific evidence and real-time data related to protecting public health; and

WHEREAS schools are critical to the daily lives of many Californians; and

WHEREAS local public health and education officials, in collaboration, are best positioned to measure and balance competing considerations, including the community's current public health, access to food and care, availability of resources, and other factors informing responses to the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567 and 8571, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

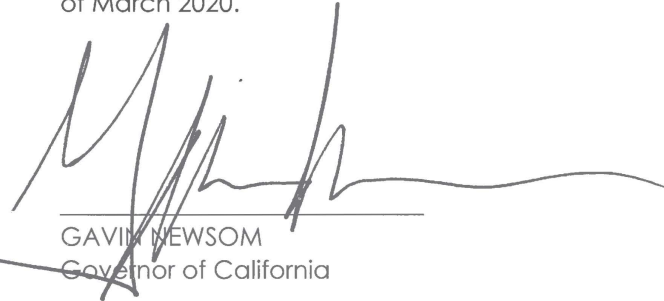
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. For purposes of this Order, Local Educational Agency (LEA) means school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools.
2. If an LEA closes its schools to address COVID-19, as provided in Paragraph 4 of this Order, the LEA will continue to receive state funding to support the following during the period of closure:
 - (i) Continue delivering high-quality educational opportunities to students to the extent feasible through, among other options, distance learning and/or independent study; and
 - (ii) Provide school meals in noncongregate settings through the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option, consistent with the requirements of the California Department of Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture;
 - (iii) Arrange for, to the extent practicable, supervision for students during ordinary school hours; and
 - (iv) Continue to pay its employees.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 13th day of March 2020.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State