



March 13, 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Staff Members:

Blue Ridge Educational Center, in accordance with Warren County Public Schools, will be extending our spring break. Spring break will begin Monday, March 16 and extend through Friday, March 27. Currently, we expect students to return to school on Monday, March 30, 2020.

The decision to close the school early has been made in collaboration with local school divisions of students we serve, as well as guidance from the Virginia Department of Education and local, state and federal health agencies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided schools with guidance on when to consider closing schools due to COVID-19. Three primary areas for consideration include: (1) a school-based COVID-19 case; (2) significant student and staff absences; and (3) a larger community mitigation strategy undertaken in collaboration with the local health department. BREC currently does not meet any of these criteria; however, we work collaboratively with the communities where our students reside and our primary goal is to keep our students and staff healthy.

We will be communicating with families about the opportunities that we plan to offer should our school remain closed beyond March 30th. Our staff will be coordinating with student's case managers, school administrators and parents to ensure that our students remain connected with their course work during an extended school closure. As previously communicated, we want all parents to rest assured that we are attuned to the academic needs of each student we serve and thus, each student will have a differentiated plan for his or her studies. Our therapeutic staff will also be available to coordinate student needs with families.

Teachers and Administrators will report to work on Monday, March 16th to begin planning for opportunities for students should school remain closed beyond March 27th. Parents, we ask that you please make all efforts to communicate with our teachers so that we can develop the best possible plan. On Tuesday, March 17th additional deep cleaning and disinfecting will take place in our building. We will be closed to the community March 17-18th to allow this to occur. Administrative staff will be available by phone and email March 16-19th. Our offices will be closed from Friday, March 19th until Friday, March 27th.

We will continue to monitor this situation very closely. Updates on the status of our school's decisions will be available on [BREC's website](#). Parents and caregivers will also remain informed via email and phone. We ask that you continue to remain current on this situation and to take measures to remain safe and healthy. Resources are available from the [Center for Disease Control](#). As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Kind regards,

April Strosnider
Executive Director