

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**SCHOOL CLOSURES EXTENDED THROUGH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; DISTANCE
LEARNING TO CONTINUE**

Tacoma, WA (April 6, 2020): With the Governor’s announcement today that school closures will continue through the end of the school year, Washington State PTA recognizes what a challenge it will be for parents, students, and their families to adjust their mindset for this new mandate. However, we support Governor Inslee’s decision to err on the side of the health and safety of Washington state residents. Our hearts go out to this year’s seniors, who will miss out on a milestone event, and to students and families grappling with the new world of “continuous learning” without face-to-face interaction.

Washington State PTA President Janice Kutzera shares, “I have been heartened by the innovative and generous ways PTAs have supported our families throughout the state in this challenging time. I know that we will continue to work together to meet the needs of our communities, our parents, and our children.”

We are encouraged by Washington State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s words as he shared that now is the time to “sow the seeds of a complete innovation and connectivity for families. It is the way we will learn. It is the way of the future. We will never replace face to face learning. It is the best model for all its comprehensive supports but right now, this is our moment to connect every family and see it as much as a right to be connected as clean water.”

These are unprecedented times as so many have said. We need to continue to do our part to bring cases down to zero. Your Washington State PTA is here to help. Please visit our Health & Well-being webpage (<https://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/health-well-being/>) for the latest news and information including the resource document “Online Resources for Parents and Students During COVID-19 Closures.”

About Washington State PTA: The Washington State PTA was founded in 1905 by Abby Williams Hill of Tacoma, an artist who saw the need for an organization to support Washington’s children. Thanks to her leadership and vision—and over 125,000 current members who have carried her vision forward—Washington State PTA has been a leading voice for children in Washington for more than 110 years. To learn more about the Washington State PTA, please visit www.wastatepta.org.

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