



JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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April 06, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairwoman and Members, Guam Education Board

FROM: Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Closure of Schools for SY2019-2020

Earlier today, Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero issued Executive Order 2020-09, extending the closure of government facilities and schools until May 5, 2020. The Executive Order aims to address the present public health emergency caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which has resulted in 112 positive cases to date and 4 deaths. Based on the latest projections by the COVID-19 task force, the current pandemic is not anticipated to peak for several weeks, necessitating the continued adherence to limitations on large social gatherings and to social distancing policies over this period of time. This means that any proposal to return 30,000 children and 4,000 employees to normal operations at our school facilities would run counter to the advice of our medical professionals and would be a cause for greater concern regarding the health and safety of our community, especially our students, employees and their families.

Board Policy 515 authorizes the Superintendent to close school facilities in the event of an emergency that threatens the health and safety of students and staff members. Based on Board Policy 515 and the facts outlined above, I am notifying the Guam Education Board of my decision, effective immediately, to close school facilities and suspend daily classes for the remainder of School Year 2019-2020, which ends officially on May 28, 2020. I am, however, authorizing the continuation of our Grab and Go School Meals Program as well as our distance learning support for our students and families. Employees will be informed regarding their duties and responsibilities during this period.

I ask for the Board's concurrence with this decision as well as its support to suspend certain board policies that will be before the Board at its special meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, to ensure that the issues related to the grading, promotion and graduation of students are appropriately addressed.


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Cc: Deputy Superintendents