

# HAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2

Office of the Superintendent

*“Our mission is to provide a rigorous, personalized environment of academic excellence that prepares Each child, Each Day and in Every classroom to be college/career and citizen ready with no excuses.”*

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## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Martin L. Wright, ED.S.

## MEMORANDUM

To: Parents/Guardians of Hampton County School District 2

From: Martin L. Wright, Superintendent of Schools

Date: March 25, 2020

Re: Extended School Closure & State Testing

As our nation and state continue to flatten the curve with the COVID-10 virus, Governor Henry McMaster and state Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman has ordered extended school closures across the state through the month of April 2020.

Hampton County School District 2 will continue with implementation of the e-learning package for students. The e-learning package distributed the week of March 16, 2020 provided for 30 days of learning tasks for students. We are grateful to our teachers for implementing advanced planning for student learning during school closure. You can be assured that our teachers will be contacting you and your child to provide assistance regarding the e-learning package. I ask of each parent to make sure that teachers have your updated email address and phone number so that two-way communicate could be established and maintained throughout the course of school closure.

In other news, state Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman has submitted a waiver to the United States Department of Education regarding spring 2020 statewide summative assessments. We are excited to announce that the request for the assessment and accountability waiver was approved and is supported by the South Carolina State Board of Education.

For spring 2020, South Carolina will not administer any of the following assessment programs:

- SC READY (English language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8);
- SCPASS (science in grades 4 and 6);
- End-of-Course Examination Program (English, Algebra, Biology, United States History and the Constitution) the requirement that these examinations count 20 percent has been waived;
- Prekindergarten assessments - 4-year-old kindergarten (*Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS Pre-K™)*, *Individual Growth and Development Indicators (myIGDI™)*, and *Teaching Strategies® GOLD*); and
- Alternate Assessments - some students have already taken the alternate assessments.

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To the extent possible, Hampton County School District 2 may have to administer the following tests this spring to include:

- Grade 10 Pre-ACT, PSAT, and Aspire;
- The ACT or SA T;
- Advanced Placement and Cambridge International Exams; and
- WIN Ready to Work.

With regard to the state accountability measure (school report cards), the following requirements under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) shall be in place:

- the state's accountability system, requiring that designations made in fall 2019 remain in effect for one additional year;
- the English language proficiency assessment is waived;
- the ESSA required 95 percent participation rate on federally required assessments is waived;
- the alternate measure of achievement (which is South Carolina's "Growth" metric on the report card) is waived;
- the student success or school quality metrics (which in South Carolina is the "Student Progress" metric, the "Student Engagement" metric, and the "College and Career Readiness" metric) is waived; and
- certain public reporting requirements are waived.

This flexibility will allow the state to focus on addressing this public health pandemic and meeting the immediate and most important needs of the students and faculty we serve.

In closing, the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks grading period ended on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Teachers will assess student work through Friday, March 16, 2020. All work submitted by students to teachers on or before March 16, 2020 will be the core of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks grade. E-learning package provided to students during the week of March 16, 2020 will serve as official 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks grades for students. Report cards will be mailed home to parents/legal guardians on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 to mailing addresses as noted in PowerSchool.