



Pat Bershinsky
Executive Director

Deirdre Shearer
Director of Exceptional Students

Brook Williamson
Director of Fiscal Services

Larry McDowell
Director of Technology

Susan Flores
Principal

Members:

Big Sandy #100J

Calhan #RJ1

Edison #54JT

Elbert #200

Ellicott #22

Fremont #RE-2

Hanover #28

Miami-Yoder #60JT

Peyton #23JT

Associate Members:

Academy #20

Cheyenne Mountain #12

CS School District #11

Falcon #49

Fountain Ft. Carson #8

Harrison #2

Lewis Palmer #38

Pueblo City Schools

Ute Pass BOCES

Widefield #3

The School of Excellence and Pikes Peak BOCES will be closed from March 16 to March 27

Dear School of Excellence Community,

Starting Monday, March 16, the Pikes Peak BOCES will join El Paso County school districts in closing all school facilities for a period of 14 days. This necessary action is an attempt to slow the spread of infection. The closure will be from March 16 through March 27, which includes our already scheduled Spring Break. We will reassess the situation as we get closer to that end date, and decide if students and staff should return on Monday, March 30. Superintendents will be calling on the Colorado Department of Education for flexibility on mandatory seat time and state testing requirements.

The decision to close our school district was extremely difficult, but it was made in consultation with public health officials and with superintendents throughout El Paso County. We know that closing our schools will have a significant impact on our families, but we also believe that strong, urgent action must be taken to prevent the spread of this disease and to protect lives.

We are facing an unprecedented public health crisis in our community. In our response to COVID-19, we must depend on the wisdom of our health experts and elected officials and make decisions that protect the health of students, staff and families in our community. In light of Governor Polis' declaration of a state of emergency in Colorado and the rapidly growing number of confirmed cases in Colorado, we must take swift action to protect public health.

During the closure, all schools, district facilities, buses will undergo additional deep cleanings with hospital-grade disinfectants. We encourage the community to continue hand washing and follow other [recommendations from the CDC](#) about how to avoid the spread of illness.

We will have follow-up communication on class dojo, the website, and Infinite Campus.

Our goal is always to protect the safety, health and wellness of our students, staff, and families. Our strength as a community is our greatest asset. We can work together to protect each other and slow the progression of COVID-19.

We will continue to remain in contact with public health officials, elected leaders and neighboring school districts and keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. We thank you for your support and partnership in this effort.

Sincerely,
Susan Flores
Principal; SOE

Pat Bershinsky
Executive Director
Pikes Peak BOCES

**WE SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES
THROUGH COLLABORATION, EFFECTIVE INNOVATION AND QUALITY SERVICES**

Pikes Peak Board of Cooperative Educational Services

2883 South Circle Drive • Colorado Springs, CO 80906 • Phone 719.570.7474 • Fax 719.380.9685 • www.ppboces.org