



**Chrys Harttraft, Ed.D.**

*Superintendent of Schools*

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March 13, 2020

Dear Somerset County Vocational & Technical School (SCVTS) educational community member,

This letter is to inform you that following the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency and upon consultation with various stakeholders including public health officials, SCVTS will be implementing its ***School Related Closure Preparedness Plan beginning on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.***

We will further assess the circumstances and communicate modifications, if any, by March 27th.

We recognize that the decision to close schools will create unprecedented challenges for our entire educational community, but we also recognize our responsibility in addressing this important public health concern. Our decision coincides with most of the receiving districts in Somerset County, despite health experts' indication that Somerset County's risk is "none to minimal". Taking proactive measures at this time is prudent.

As was previously indicated, SCVTS will be open on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for instructors and educational support personnel, to develop their flexible instructional plans. The New Jersey State Department of Education has determined that consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1, a district's Approved Preparedness Plan will enable schools to provide flexible instruction and be counted toward the 180-day educational requirement. Therefore, we are enlisting your help in directing your child to remain engaged and on-task for the duration of the school closing.

Teachers will be communicating more details regarding instructional expectations via email to students following Monday's professional development day. [Click here for additional guidance for students participating in instruction while school is closed.](#)

The district's operational and administrative staff will be available during the hours of 10:00AM and 2:00PM should you have any questions.

Best Regards,

*Chrys Harttraft*

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Superintendent of Schools