



Pointe Coupee Parish School Board

Post Office Drawer 579 • New Roads, Louisiana 70760-0579
(225) 638-8674 • Fax (225) 638-3237



Pointe Coupee Parish Public School System Coronavirus Update March 16, 2020

Pointe Coupee Families and Employees,

The Pointe Coupee Parish Public School System is committed to supporting our students and families and keeping you informed through these challenging times. The Governor's Executive Order to temporarily close schools is a strategy utilized to stop or slow the future spread of COVID-19 in communities. We understand that proactive measures are needed to ensure that our families remain healthy. Currently, our staff is working around the clock collaborating with the offices at the Louisiana Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control, the Governor's Office, and the Department of Health and Hospitals. Please note that this is a very fluid situation, often changing by the hour, which calls for us to be very flexible. ***The plans below are reflective of today's date, March 16, 2020.*** We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the details during this unprecedented time.

Closure Information:

- All school activities, including athletics, have been postponed or canceled. This includes off-site practices for athletics.
- All school facilities are closed to students through April 13, 2020.
- Beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020, access to school facilities for school system employees, including administrators, will be limited to only those with pre-approval given by the Superintendent's Office.
- The Central Office will maintain a staggered schedule for essential employees only. The office will be open via email, phone, and appointment only, pending Board approval.

***Updates will be provided as more details or guidance becomes available. This includes information about Prom and Graduation.**

Employees/Support Staff Members/Contracted Employees:

All employees, including support staff members and contracted employees, will continue to receive directions and information from their direct supervisor. More information will be made available after the Tuesday, March 17, 2020 school board meeting. Additional questions should be directed to principals or immediate supervisors.

Report Cards:

Report cards for students in grades 1-12 will be mailed out Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Medication:

Parents will be contacted by the school nurse to set up appointments to pick up student medications.

Nutritional Program:

The USDA has provided flexibility to school systems to offer meals to **ALL (including those not enrolled in the public school system)** children 18 years and under during this extended closure.

- Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary, Rosenwald Elementary, and Livonia High School will serve as district meal sites.
- Beginning **Tuesday, March 17, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, meals will be distributed daily and will consist of a cold breakfast and a hot lunch.
- Drive-thru service will be provided, allowing parents to drive up to the site and pick up meals.
- Families will not be allowed to exit cars to obtain meals.
- Pick-up points in the surrounding community are TBA.

Home Learning Resources:

The Pointe Coupee Parish Public School System will not be operating a distance education program during this closure. Instead, we will provide information with at-home learning resources that families may want to take advantage of. *This is not required.*

Dual Enrollment (DE):

All dual enrollment classes will continue online, according to the individual college providers. Teachers will continue to be in direct contact with DE students to assist in ensuring continued success.

Advanced Placement (AP):

All AP teachers will be in direct contact with parents and students enrolled in AP courses.

Student Support Services:

Educational services for all students within the school system have been paused; this includes students with disabilities. The school system will review how the closure will have impacted the delivery of special education and related services for each child once school resumes.

Technology Access:

Laptops will be distributed for students and teachers as deemed necessary. Administrators will keep a distribution log to track all computers that are distributed.

Louisiana Department of Education Academic Resources:

The LDOE, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Public Broadcasting, will provide home learning tools for students and caregivers. This includes an online hub set to launch on March 18, 2020. It will consist of links to High-Quality Curriculum Resources and educational programming through LPB and YouTube Channels.

Internet Access for Families and Students - Public Announcement:

The FCC Chairman has launched the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which many broadband carriers have signed. For the next 60 days, its core provisions will:

- Not terminate services to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus.

- Waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus;
- Open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them.

Limited income households can apply for \$5 to \$10 per month internet access through the following:

- AT&T Access
- CoxConnect 2 Complete
- Century Link Lifeline
- Charter Communication

Prevention:

As a reminder, the best way to prevent the spread of this virus is to avoid being exposed. The CDC recommends the following actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases:

- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds or more. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid crowds of 50 or more people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Close your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, or use the elbow method.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Consult your healthcare provider if you are sick.

Symptoms associated with COVID-19:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath/difficulty breathing
- Less common symptoms include nausea, diarrhea, and sputum production.

All district communication regarding services and updates can be found on our district website at <http://www.pcpsb.net>, through the district's Facebook page, and the call-out system.

Any address and phone number updates can be made by calling your child's school before **2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.**

Governor Edwards Proclamation:

<https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/ExecutiveOrders/27-JBE-2020-COVID-19.pdf>

Stay safe and thank you,
Pointe Coupee Parish School System