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Greetings ICSD Community,

Today, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, announced that all school buildings will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year. Unfortunately, students, staff and families will not be in Ithaca City School District buildings for at least two more months. While devastated that we will not be in spaces together, I commend the Governor for extending social distancing measures that will allow for protection of our school community.

My heart aches for the struggles and lost opportunities many are facing. I'm particularly sad for our students in the Class of 2020. At this point in their academic careers, our students should be enjoying proms, graduations, and many other highlights. Please know that we will celebrate our seniors' achievements in a safe manner and at an appropriate time.

Our community, perhaps now more than ever, needs social and emotional support. As I outlined in my last communication, the ICSD is here for you as a student, a staff member or as a family member. **If you are struggling, you are not alone.** Please access the many resources we have available on our [website](#), and always feel free to reach out to our exceptional social workers, psychologists, counselors and administrators for support. Additionally, there is a New York State **Emotional Support Hotline (1-844-863-9314)** and state-wide mental health resources available at [www.headspace.com/ny](http://www.headspace.com/ny). Again, if you or anyone you know needs help, I urge you to reach out. In this time of isolation, it is important for us all to remember that resources are available.

If you have any questions, thoughts or concerns, please use the [Let'sTalk portal](#). I sincerely thank you for all you are doing for our students, for each other and our community.

Regards,

Luvelle Brown Ed.D.  
Superintendent