



Hello Belmont-Redwood Shores Community,

This communication will address:

- Our revised policy on excused absences
- Outlining the decision-making process for school closure
- Attendance restrictions on afterschool sports

Revision for Excused Absences

Given that there is "evidence of widespread community transmission of COVID-19 in San Mateo County" per the County Health Officer's [March 10 statement](#), we want to offer revised student attendance guidance to our students and families.

If it is medically advisable for a student to stay home because that student or a family member with whom they live is at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 (sample resource [here](#)), we will excuse that student's absences. We will ask for a doctor's note to confirm this, but families in this situation may keep their students home effective immediately, and we will retroactively excuse their absences once we receive the doctor's note.

Normally, a concern about possibly getting sick is not an excused absence, but we are invoking our administrative discretion under California Education Code [48205.a.11](#) and [48260.c](#). Regarding keeping up with schoolwork and learning, we will ask teachers to treat these absences as they would other illness-related absences. Note that this is not independent study or home instruction. Teachers will likely share assignments and updates that are easy to share, but they will not be generating special communications, work packets, or online instruction. As when sick, students can fully catch up on what they miss when they return to school.

Decision-Making Process for School Closure

Currently, no public school districts in San Mateo County are closed or closing. However, the school superintendents in the County had a serious discussion of the topic late this afternoon. We are continuing to consult with County Health and assessing the situation on an ongoing basis. Our next conference call will take place this Friday. After that meeting, I will consult the Board by phone and give you an update. There is a possibility of school closing beginning on Monday, March 16, through spring break, which takes place during the first week of April. I recommend that families develop provisional plans for child care. There is a good chance that before and afterschool childcare providers will close if the school district closes.

I will make this decision with the guidance and input of the County Health Officer and the Board of Trustees. Should you wish to share your thoughts with us regarding this decision, you may reply to this email, email me at mmilliken@brssd.org, and/or email the Board at board@brssd.org. I will acknowledge receipt of your email and copy the Board, but given the volume, I will not be able to respond in depth or justify our current position any more than I have via this message, [our FAQ](#), and [previous emails](#). Please know that the governance team takes this seriously, and we appreciate BRSSD's important role in protecting the health of our students, staff, and the broader community.

Attendance Restrictions on Afterschool Sports

Beginning next week, I will ask our middle school administrators and athletic directors to limit attendance at afterschool sports to immediate family. No friends, classmates, extended family, or members of the public should be in attendance. Thank you for your cooperation with this restriction.

I will continue to update you on developments and send another email out no later than Friday night.

Sincerely,

Michael Milliken
Superintendent

Suvarna Bhopale | Amy Koo | Samuel Leinbach | Jim Howard | Rahila Passi
Board of Trustees