Dear Families:

We appreciate your partnership and support as together we navigate this unprecedented health crisis in our community. In our response to the Coronavirus – COVID-19, we have been following the guidance of Snohomish Health District and the Department of Health and implementing **preventive and responsive strategies. As we have shared many times, our goal has been to keep our students in the classroom learning as long as possible.** Our incredible school staff, school leaders and central support staff have been unwavering in this commitment. We appreciate their service to our community, children and families.

In light of Governor Inslee’s and County Executive Somers request that all citizens practice measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, it is now time to plan for alternative ways to serve our community and families.

**Starting Monday, March 16, Everett Public Schools will close schools for a minimum of 14 days.**

Beginning Monday, March 16, all school building activities including school day instruction, childcare, preschool, health services, enrichment, etc. are canceled until further notice. Students will be in school tomorrow and Friday, March 12 and 13. Friday is a LIF. This will allow students to collect learning materials they might need and bring home any personal items they might want while schools are closed.

Over the next several days you will receive further information from the school district on what this means for your child, including learning opportunities, meal provision, and other necessities.

The decision to close the district was extremely difficult. We know closing our schools will impact our most vulnerable families and we recognize that working families depend on the consistency and predictability of support and services our schools offer. We are finalizing plans to support our families during the closure and will communicate those in the next several days.

More information will be provided daily into the near future, and you can always find updates at everettsd.org/covid-19 and on our district social media sites.

Thank you again for your support as we all work together to do what is best for our students, staff and families.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ian Saltzman
Everett Public Schools