



*innovation in creating student success  
through cooperative services*



March 14, 2020

To: GST BOCES Staff

From: Jim Frame, GST BOCES District Superintendent

I want to thank you for your flexibility and patience as our response to COVID-19 has been rapidly evolving each day. We have been working diligently with our community partners to plan and respond to this emerging issue. As ordered by the Chemung and Steuben County Health Departments, all GST BOCES campuses – Bush, Coopers and Wildwood – along with our Adult Education and Training programs, will be closed to students effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Although we have no knowledge of confirmed cases associated with GST BOCES, the Health Departments noted that this action is ordered for several reasons:

- To slow the potential spread of disease among groups of students in confined spaces.
- To protect vulnerable populations including older adults, those who are immune-compromised or have chronic medical conditions, especially heart or lung disease, and those with diabetes.
- To promote social distancing, putting space between yourself and others, limiting large gatherings and refraining from handshakes and hugs.

All campuses and programs will be open for staff and students on Monday, March 16, 2020. All staff and students should report. All campuses and programs will be closed for students from Tuesday, March 17 through Sunday, April 12. All GST BOCES employees will be notified of operational work plans on Monday, March 16.

Critical functions such as payroll and benefits coordination will continue to operate without interruption as long as a state declaration does not hinder our ability to conduct business.

While we are closed, everyone is encouraged to make decisions that best address your own health and safety. Any health-related concerns should be brought to a medical professional. Please continue to take care of yourself and others.

If you have any questions, please contact your immediate supervisor.

**Greater Southern Tier Board of Cooperative Educational Services**

*Serving Schuyler, Steuben, Chemung, Tioga and Allegany Counties*

**Coopers Campus:** 9579 Vocational Drive, Painted Post, NY 14870 • Phone: 607-739-3581