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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **School Administrators Concur with Governor's Decision to Close Schools**

*Districts across the state preparing to implement contingencies in response to virus outbreak*

**OLYMPIA**—Representatives of the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) today expressed support for Gov. Inslee's executive order, closing schools in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties through April 24 in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Joel Aune, executive director for WASA, said districts all across Washington are watching their peers in the Puget Sound region, making contingency plans in the event of more forced closures due to the virus outbreak. The executive order for the three affected counties includes 43 districts and 600,000 students.

"It has been inspiring to observe and work with superintendents and school leaders the past three weeks, especially those in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, who are literally at the epicenter of this pandemic," said Aune. "Their leadership, courage, and character has been on full display. Superintendents have been under an immense amount of pressure during this time, but have held steady in their commitment to children, young people, and families."

School districts affected by the closure now begin the task of solving an array of complex challenges – from delivering nutritional services to child care (especially for first responders' and health care providers' families) to instructional delivery.

"Students rely on their schools and teachers for a variety of reasons beyond instructional learning. For some children, school is like a home, and we will support superintendents in finding ways to continue meeting those social, emotional and nutritional needs," added Aune.

“We also want to thank Superintendent Reykdal and his team for their leadership during this evolving situation. Their leadership is essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of our schools, staff, students and families,” said Aune.

“Now that the decisions for school closure have been made, there is another assemblage of complex problems to be solved, and more work to be done. It will be essential that school leaders, school staff, families and the community come together during this difficult time to mitigate the transmission of the virus.”

***About the Washington Association of School Administrators***

*The Washington Association of School Administrators (<http://www.wasa-oly.org>) is committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful and valuable training, support, and resources to education leaders, and to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. With more than 1,600 members, membership is open to all education administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. A not-for-profit organization, WASA is funded by membership dues and association events.*