replies indicated some students have enrolled in private schools or Bureau of Indian Education schools; some are being home-schooled, and others have moved out of state.

To obtain better contact information, the Human Services, Children, Youth and Families and Early Childhood Education and Care departments are cross-checking names on PED's list with their own databases.

HSD's cross-check turned up about 5,000 matches; CYFD's cross-check turned up about 4,300 students who had previous contact of some kind with that agency.

The agency partners have divided up the new contact lists and will begin direct outreach to individual families next week with help from the Graduation Alliance.

"Our goal is to understand where these students are living, what they're doing, whether they need services, and what their plans are for schooling — present and future. If they need assistance re-enrolling, we'll provide that, too," said PED Deputy Secretary Katarina Sandoval.

Meanwhile, the superintendents are comparing the PED student list to their own updated enrollment information and discovering that, in many cases, districts have already located many of the disengaged students. For example, PED lists 500 disengaged students in Rio Rancho.

"I can tell you where every child has gone except for 136 of them," Cleveland said. "We're down to 136, but that's still too many."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Dec. 11, 2020

STATE ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY SCHOOL CLOSURE AFTER WINTER BREAK

MEASURE COMBATS COVID CASE SURGE, ACCELERATES RETURN TO SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE IN-PERSON LEARNING

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) and the Public Education Department (PED) today announced a delay in the return to in-person learning after the winter break, in an effort to help mitigate what may be a post-

holiday surge in COVID-19 cases in New Mexico and to minimize the risk of exposure in in-person learning environments during that time.

Details include:

- No in-person learning will be permitted during the weeks of January 4 and January 11, 2021.
- Schools previously operating in the hybrid model may return to their hybrid schedules the week of January 18, 2021. In addition, those operating small-group instruction in the remote stance may also begin welcoming their 5:1 groups of K-3 and Special Education students back to school beginning January 18, 2021.
- All Local Education Authorities must participate in increased surveillance testing following the winter break.
- Surveillance testing will be required for 10% of onsite staff for at least two weeks prior to offering in-person student services.

“Our goal remains unchanged: to save lives and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Today’s actions will help us achieve that goal – and ultimately, help schools and students return to inperson learning more quickly,” said DOH Acting Cabinet Secretary Billy Jimenez. “We are hopeful that with these additional mitigation efforts, we will be able to welcome many more students back into their classrooms in the New Year. Our children have experienced a school year unlike any other and while we are proud of their resiliency and perseverance, we are eager to see them amongst their peers and thriving back in school,” said Public Education Department Cabinet Secretary Ryan Stewart.

Additional press inquiries should be directed to Judy Robinson, PED Deputy Communications Director, at **judy.robinson@state.nm.us**.

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Dec. 9, 2020

PED PRESENTS $3.3 BILLION BUDGET REQUEST FOR SCHOOLS

PLAN WOULD GET MORE MONEY TO KIDS IN NEED, PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR DISTRICTS