THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURES TO STOP SPREAD OF COVID-19

WHEREAS: On March 14, 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 on the State of Georgia, I issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS: Executive Order 03.16.20.01 closed all public elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools in Georgia through Tuesday, March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 is spreading through Georgia communities; and

WHEREAS: The number of COVID-19 cases in Georgia continues to rise; and

WHEREAS: Further action is necessary to protect the health and safety of the population of Georgia, slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the number of people who will become infected, and avoid unnecessary strain on Georgia's healthcare system; and

WHEREAS: During a state of emergency, Georgia law vests the Governor with powers and duties as may be deemed necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS: Code Section 38-3-51(d)(1) vests the Governor with the power to suspend any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster; and

WHEREAS: In consultation with the Governor's Coronavirus Task Force and local, state, and federal education, health and emergency preparedness officials, I have determined that an extended closure of

all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary public schools in Georgia is a necessary and appropriate action to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia's residents and visitors to help control the spread of COVID-19 throughout this State.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO CODE SECTION 38-3-51, AND THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That the school closures mandated by Executive Order 03.26.20.02 are hereby extended by the terms included in this Order.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That all public elementary and secondary schools shall remain closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That all post-secondary public schools shall remain closed for instruction to graduate and undergraduate students through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That actions not addressed by this Order related to the health, safety, and welfare of the students, faculty, and staff of the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia may be determined by the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia and the Commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia for their respective post-secondary education systems.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That for the purposes of online learning, each local school district may establish a final day of classes pursuant to each district's authority conveyed by Code Section 20- 2-49 *et seq.*

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That this Order shall not prevent remote learning or online programs developed for students by the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Education, or any local school district.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That this Order shall not prevent faculty or staff of any system, school district, or school from being asked to work or return to their respective campuses as needed to maintain essential services.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Department of Education implement measures providing for the health, nutrition, safety, educational needs, and well-being of students during this mandated school closure period.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That if one or more of the provisions contained in this Order shall be held to be invalid, in violation of the Georgia Constitution, in violation of Georgia law, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, violation, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Order, but, in such case, this Order shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained within the Order.

This 1st day of April 2020.

B. P Kemp

GOVERNOR