

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1430 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5901 • 916-319-0800 • WWW.CDE.CA.GOV

March 13, 2020

**CTSO Leadership Teams:**

Over the last few weeks, the state of California, as well as the entire country and world, are responding to the spread of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19). California is actively working with the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local governments, health facilities, and health care providers across the state to prepare and protect Californians from COVID-19.

On Wednesday, March 11, Governor Gavin Newsom provided an Executive Order (EO) to update the state's policy on large gatherings, saying events with 250 or more people should be canceled or postponed statewide to protect the public and slow the spread of COVID-19. The Executive Order is in place till March 31, 2020, but with a strong likelihood for having it extended. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has determined that gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March. Non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 250 people, while smaller events can proceed only if the organizers can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person. Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines. Along with Governor's Newsom's EO, and the CDPH guidelines, the California Department of Education (CDE) has provided additional information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) on its website.

Based on Governor's Newsom's EO, the CDPH guidelines, and the CDE information on how to deal with Covid-19, this letter is provided by the Career and College Transition Division (CCTD), specifically as it relates to Career Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSO). Because the current situation and extent of the transmission of COVID-19 is fluid and ever evolving, CDE feels it is necessary and prudent to cancel all meetings and conferences CTSO State Leadership Conferences to assure the safety of all those involved.

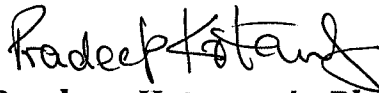
This early call is necessary because CCTD staff are currently exploring alternatives and require time to assess their feasibility. We are aware of the heartbreak knowing that all California CTSO students have spent considerable time and effort in preparing for their State Leadership Conference. Also, CCTD is fully aware that the decision to cancel will inevitably subsequently to the CTSO students' ability to move forward to their respective National/International State Leadership Conferences. However, CCTD's primary concern for this decision is the safety of all CTSO students and their families, educators, and all other attendees participating in "large gatherings".

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Please be aware that additional details regarding next steps for Cal-HOSA, DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, and SkillsUSA CA will be provided through your State Advisor. The State Advisors are committed to working tirelessly to support students and to look at alternative strategies to qualify students for moving to the next step.

With kind regards,



***Pradeep Kotamraju Ph.D.***

Director, Career and College Transition Division

California Department of Education

1430 N. Street, Suite 4202

Sacramento CA 95814

Phone: 916-322-6368

Mobile: 916-709-7277

[PKotamraju@cde.ca.gov](mailto:PKotamraju@cde.ca.gov)

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/>