



East Lansing
Public Schools

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Good evening ELPS community,

I hope you are all staying healthy and positive as we move into the second week of this school closure. It's hard to believe that it's only been 10 days since this mandatory closure was first announced. The focus of our first week has been to establish processes and routines to ensure that our students' and families' basic needs are being met. Through donations of goods and money by community members, faculty, staff and others, the district continues to provide support to many of our families.

In the past few days, we have received some new information to share with you:

1. The U.S. Department of Education has waived state standardized testing for this school year. In addition, while no official statement has been communicated, it is highly unlikely that the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Law can be implemented this school year as its mandates are primarily based on M-STEP scores.
2. ELPS will hold its Spring Break from April 3 - 10, as originally planned.
3. The ELPS Board of Education will hold its Monday, March 23 meeting remotely. If you'd like to phone in to listen or to provide public comment, please see the notice and directions that are posted on our website and on the window by the night activities entrance of East Lansing High School.

We are still awaiting guidance and direction on other topics, including whether or not missed days will need to be made up, end-of-year activities, spring sports, and many others - many decisions will be dependent on whether or not this closure is extended. At this time, no decisions have been made regarding events scheduled after Spring Break. As new information is available and decisions are made, I will continue to keep you all informed.

I hope you've had the opportunity to read the communication that was eblasted to all of you Friday from Glenn Mitcham, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, regarding online learning resources and online instruction. As we learn more about the length of this closure, please know that the district is committed to exploring ways to provide equal and equitable access to high-quality instruction to ALL of our students.

Thank you all for your continued patience, flexibility and support during this time - I continue to urge everyone to show kindness and compassion and to assume that everyone is doing the best they can during this time. I've witnessed numerous examples of pure empathy and extreme appreciation by so many individuals this week, and I've never been more proud to be a part of this school community. Please take care of yourselves and your family and friends during this time, and I encourage you to reach out to me directly at Dori.leyko@elps.us if there is anything the school district can do to support you.

I plan to send out a robocall with this information tonight to provide additional access to families, so if you've read this email, there is not a need to listen to that call.

Stay safe and take care.

Dori Leyko, Superintendent