

Update from the Allegan County Superintendent's Association

As members of the Allegan County Superintendent's Association we want to collectively express our appreciation for the efforts of our students, parents/guardians, teachers, support staff, administrators, and community to quickly adapt to the change from in-person to remote instruction and learning. We recognize that this sudden shift has not been without its challenges, and we thank you for working to overcome them amidst the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are committed to continuing to provide educational opportunities for students through the end of the current school year and request your continued support with keeping students engaged in learning during this time.

Throughout this pandemic, our primary concern has been and continues to be the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and communities. Our hope is that you are well, and will remain so, both physically and mentally. If you have been personally impacted by COVID-19, please know that our thoughts and well wishes are with you and your family. Please take care of yourself and your family and seek out assistance if you are in need.

As we near the end of the 2019-2020 school year, we know that you are thinking about 2020-2021. We too have read the stories about how other states and school districts are planning to conduct school next year. While we recognize the need to plan for a variety of possibilities, the reality is that – at this time – we simply don't know what things will look like in August.

For this reason, we are actively planning possible scenarios for school next year. These include:

1. In-person, face-to-face instruction with proper precautions and safety measures;
2. Remote/distance learning using technology and other means;
3. A combination of in-person, face-to-face instruction and remote/distance learning.

To the extent that remote/distance learning continues to be part of the instructional delivery model, we anticipate a more robust program with student participation, engagement, and assessment expectations more closely resembling that of traditional, in-person school.

As a group, we are actively engaged in planning through the remainder of the current school year and will continue throughout the summer. Additional efforts will be occurring within individual school districts. We have and will continue to work with the Allegan County Health Department. We will rely heavily on their guidance and direction, as we will that of the State of Michigan and Federal government, including the recently released United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for reopening schools.

We are committed to maintaining transparency and openness in our planning, while also exercising a degree of caution, knowing that any plans that we decide on are subject to the

actions of our government officials and bodies. As plans are further developed, we will provide additional information. In the interim, we ask for your patience and understanding.

Finally, for those families with children who will be entering kindergarten next year, our districts are still accepting kindergarten registrations. We would encourage you to register your child as soon as possible as it assists us in our planning for next year. Please visit our websites to learn more about the registration process.

Yours in Education,

William Brown, Allegan Area ESA

James Antoine, Allegan Public Schools

Jim Greydanus, Fennville Public Schools

Brian Scieszka, Glenn Public School

Gary Wood, Hopkins Public School

Brooke Ballee-Stone, Martin Public Schools

Jeff Haase, Otsego Public Schools

Matt Montange, Plainwell Community Schools

Norman Taylor, Wayland Union Schools