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Dexter E. Jordan Superintendent of Education **Board of Education** 

Terri Stamps, District 1 Bobby L. Wilson, District 2 Nadine Thompson, District 3 Shonda Burr, District 4 Von Norwood, District 5

March 30, 2020

To the parents and students of this great district,

Governor Tate Reeves has taken an extraordinary step to protect the health and safety of Mississippi residents, students and educators. We appreciate the cooperation shared between schools across the state and our district during this time. As they focus activities to be ready for this reality, the sharing of information and processes is integral in our success. We anticipate continued cooperation as we transition to this period of suspended in-person activity as seamlessly as possible. We are especially grateful to our schools that have proactively developed plans to keep learning going even if school buildings aren't open. There is a lot of momentum in Mississippi schools right now, and we would hate to see that momentum stalled, although we understand that today's announcement does mean there will be disruptions as "Social Distance" continues.

We want to thank students, staff, families and caregivers who will need to exercise a great deal of flexibility in the coming weeks. We know this action causes disruption to established routines and expectations, but it was a necessary step to slow the spread of this outbreak.

We understand there are many questions. We are navigating this uncharted territory together. We are working to provide answers as they become available. As a result, rest assured that we are committed to working with Governor Reeves, the legislature, and other stakeholders to provide as much flexibility and latitude as necessary to accommodate these circumstances.

Thank you for your patience,

Dexter Jordan, Superintendent of Education