

**MAAA Superintendent Association  
Closure Extension Communication**

March 30, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

As the past week has shown, the COVID-19 pandemic has begun to spread through most of our counties. We have been diligent in our decision-making process when asking how our school districts can make a difference in slowing the spread of this disease. At this time, we feel that returning to school next week would be detrimental to the efforts of our local health authorities and healthcare providers as they work to battle and slow the progress of the virus.

Therefore, we have made the decision to extend school closures for all MAAA schools through **Thursday, April 30**. During this time, all school events, including extracurricular activities, competitions, clubs, field trips, ceremonies, parent meetings and committee meetings are postponed. This decision was made following President Donald Trump's announcement on Sunday that he would extend federal social distancing guidelines to Thursday, April 30, and after consulting local health authorities. As circumstances continue to fluctuate, it is difficult to predict what our situation will be a month from now. With that being said, we tentatively plan on welcoming students and staff back on **Friday, May 1**.

We know that extending closures will introduce further strain on our families, but we cannot ask our students to return to school before the spread of this disease has passed. We must safeguard the health of our families by making decisions that are in the best interest of our community. Over the past few weeks, we have been encouraged by the spirit and fortitude of our communities. We see you reaching out to help others, configuring meal services for those in need, continuing student learning in new and innovative ways, and strengthening our bonds by sharing our experiences. We see you, and we applaud you. We are making history, and this tenuous time will be remembered by how we respond, adapt, and overcome.

Even though our schools are not in session, our school districts are still here for our families. Reach out with any questions or concerns that you have, and we will find you the resources and answers that you need. Teachers will send instructional materials via packets or online classrooms, and are staying in contact with parents and students via parent emails, student school emails, video calls, phone calls, and third-party apps, such as Thrillshare and Remind.

We would also like to share with you that last week, Dr. Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of Education for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), announced that Missouri state assessments are cancelled for this school year. We hope this will alleviate some stress for our students, faculty, and staff as we navigate the next several weeks.

We know that you have many questions. Please know that we continue to work on our plans and will share them with our families as we move forward together. Thank you for your patience, your support, and your understanding.

Arcadia Valley R-II School District  
Bismarck R-V School District  
Central R-III School District  
Farmington R-VII School District  
Fredericktown R-I School District  
Kingston K-14 School District

North St. Francois County R-I School District  
Potosi R-III School District  
Ste. Genevieve County R-II School District  
Valley R-VI School District  
West County R-IV School District