



March 13, 2020

RE: WPS District Update

Last night, Governor Whitmer announced the mandatory closure of all K-12 public, private, charter, and boarding schools within the State from Monday, March 16, 2020, through Sunday April 5, 2020, in order to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We understand that this decision by the Governor has created a number of questions. Unfortunately, at the present time, there are more questions than answers. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and United States Department of Education are continually issuing guidance regarding how local schools are expected to respond to this situation.

While school operations may seem simple to some, the reality is that these are complex systems subject to numerous State and Federal laws, rules, regulations, and contractual obligations. The immediate and unplanned closure of school for an extended period of time is unprecedented, and, for that reason, there are more questions than answers today. However, Federal, State, and local officials are working hard to provide guidance and make decisions that will assist in answering your questions and ours. As these answers become available, we will share them with you. Thus, please continue to monitor your email, our District website and social media pages for informational updates. District staff should expect to receive additional information from your building administrators.

Because we know that everyone has questions, we've attempted to provide responses to common questions that we have received.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Wyoming Public Schools is scheduled to be on spring break beginning on Friday, April 3, 2020, and continuing through Sunday, April 12, 2020. The Governor indicated in her message that she hoped that schools would consider adjusting the spring break week so that all students were back in school on Monday, April 6, 2020. Will WPS be changing spring break?**

At the present time, there are no plans to adjust the scheduled spring break. Thus, spring break is still scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2020, through Sunday, April 12, 2020 with a return to the classroom on Monday, April 13, 2020. Should the Governor and/or Legislature take action that obligates schools to return to session beginning on April 6, 2020, this may change.



2. Does this mean that school buildings are closed and unavailable for student, staff and/or community access during the closure period?

School buildings will be open and staffed on Monday, March 16, 2020 from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM for parents and/or legal guardians to pick up student personal items.

For the safety of our staff and community, it is recommended that all staff stay home during this closure, practice social distancing and maintain healthy habits.

Outside of the March 16th pick up date, district facilities are closed to all outside groups.

3. Will schools be required to make-up this time resulting in an extension of the school year?

Michigan's State School Aid Act stipulates certain day and hour requirements subject to a number of exceptions for student school attendance. In the past, the Legislature and/or Department of Education have adjusted legislative requirements or granted waivers that provide additional flexibility. At the present time, we have not received information from the State regarding whether or not there will be any flexibility to the student attendance day and hour requirements.

4. What will happen to students who rely on school-provided food service, including free and reduced meal eligible students?

Over the course of the closure, there will be two (2) meal distribution points for students, West Elementary and Wyoming Junior High School. Drive through pick up will take place at each site from noon until 1 PM on Mondays (food for 2 days), Wednesdays (food for 2 days) and Fridays (food for 3 days) while schools are closed. Meals, breakfast and lunch, will be provided in bulk to cover multiple days.

West Elementary

1840 38th Street SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

Wyoming Junior High

2125 Wrenwood SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

5. Will students be expected to participate in provided at-home, on-line, or other learning opportunities?

For a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, internet accessibility and capacity issues, unavailability of technology, contractual obligations, and concerns about providing equitable services to all students, there is no current plan to require students to participate in learning opportunities during the closure period. As you may know, March is National Reading Awareness Month, and students are always encouraged to read. A list of FREE online educational resources is available on www.wyomingps.org.



6. Will school athletic teams and other extracurricular activities continue during the closure period?

No, at the present time, all school-sponsored activities are postponed indefinitely. The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has suspended all winter team tournaments, and we anticipate additional guidance will be forthcoming for spring sports. There will be no practices, rehearsals, or other activities during the closure period.

7. Will report cards and progress reports be sent during this closure?

Yes, student report cards and progress reports will be distributed electronically during the closure. Please monitor the parent e-mail address you provided our District for academic updates.

8. What will happen with kindergarten round-up?

WPS kindergarten round-up which was scheduled for April 1st will be postponed until after spring break. Additional information will be shared once that date has been scheduled.

9. Will school district board of education meetings continue?

Yes, WPS Board of Education meetings will be held in accordance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act during the closure period. Board meetings are likely to focus on essential business only, and, to the extent practicable, social distancing measures will be encouraged.

10. Will school district employees continue to be paid during the closure period?

WPS district employees will be provided continued compensation and benefits during the closure period in accordance with Governor Whitmer's request. It is important to note that this may be subject to contractual obligations, and staff should expect further communication from human resources.

These are extraordinary times, which require significant understanding and cooperation. These decisions, while difficult, have been made with the intent of protecting the health and safety of all our Wyoming Public Schools family. We request your continued patience and understanding as the situation evolves.



WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3575 Gladiola Avenue SW | Wyoming, Michigan 49519

Please continue to monitor your email, our district website and our social media pages for informational updates. Thank you for your cooperation, and please take care of yourself and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Hoekstra', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Craig Hoekstra
Superintendent
Wyoming Public Schools