



March 23, 2020

Dear LRSD Stakeholders,

I know it is Spring Break but I think in this day and age communication is critical. To that effect, you are receiving another update from me and will receive other updates as we go through Spring Break. We have received numerous questions about the Department of Education's position regarding graduating seniors. We still have much to learn on what the expectations are for our 12th graders and will follow up with further communication. We want to be accurate and responsive to this group of students so please be patient as we gather this information and then make plans to provide additional support for these students. However, with the safety and well-being of all students as a priority, as we previously mentioned, we are postponing all activities and extracurricular events scheduled for April. We will continue to monitor developments and reevaluate events for the end of the school year when classes resume on April 20th.

When District staff returns from Spring Break, we will continue work on what we are calling our Phase II approach to virtual instruction. We appreciate comments parents have provided and we will continue to work to improve our delivery to all students, provide access to technology tools and data plans, and enhance communication between students and teachers. We know that last point is critical. We also know it is critical to have your support as parents and we appreciate your efforts to work with us up to this point. Phase II will also include modifying our approach to providing food, working to improve in this area, as well to provide even more access to meals and create opportunities for work for our LRSD staff.

Teachers will continue with current AMI plans through April 2nd, at which time the District will provide virtual training to all teachers in using the District's Learning Management Systems. The Curriculum and Instruction Team is currently working on lessons for K-5, as well as a solution for 6-12 instruction that will require teachers to support learning rather than create multiple lessons. Teachers do not need to worry about planning lessons over Spring Break.

One of the messages that cannot be reinforced enough is to continue to stay informed through accurate information and updates from both the State of Arkansas and the CDC, and other resources:

- <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/>
1-800-803-7847 – 24 hour hotline for COVID-19 questions
- [Uamshealth.com](https://www.uamshealth.com)
- 1-800-743-3616 – 24-hour hotline for issues related to children's health – ACH
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html
- www.cdc.gov/handwashing/
- www.cdc.gov/handwashing/esp/index.html Handwashing in Spanish
- [Littlerock.gov/covid19](https://littlerock.gov/covid19) – Latest Student Meal Schedule

I am so grateful to all who continue to step up to offer support in these challenging times and I am heartened by how our LRSD staff has been front and center. Please use this Spring Break to enhance your and your family's health. Read, play, and be active.

Sincerely,

Mike Poore
Superintendent of Schools