October 5, 2020

Dear AAESA Families,

You may have heard news reports about the latest decision of the Michigan Supreme Court stating, for a number of legal reasons, that the issuance by the Governor of executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer valid on a continuing basis. We are writing to you for the purpose of letting you know that, over the past few months, we have worked with educational leaders and stakeholders at numerous levels in government, the fields of health, psychology and epidemiology, and experts in education.

While that collaboration occurred under the auspices of the various executive orders whose validity the Michigan Supreme Court has called into question, there has thus far not been an order entered in any court invalidating the executive orders related to COVID-19. Also, the product of our collaboration was adopted by our Board of Education as policy for our school district. That policy survives any judicial action.

Allegan Area Educational Service Agency’s Board of Education and Administration have the responsibility to maintain safety for all of our students and staff, as well as their families. We likewise have the ability to adopt policies to keep these stakeholders safe. After careful consideration, and unless or until we receive additional or other guidance from lawful authority, we will be maintaining our way forward into the 2020-21 school year as articulated in our return to school plan adopted under the Safe Schools Roadmap, as well as those procedures incorporated into our preparedness and response plan as it relates to COVID-19.

If you have any questions as we work through the challenges presented by these extraordinary times, please feel free to contact me.

Yours In Education,

William D Brown
Superintendent