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Dear Allegan Area ESA families,

On April 2nd Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-35, effectively closing all Michigan school districts for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, due to concerns over the continuing COVID-19 crisis. While there are still many uncertainties moving forward, here is what we know about the effects of the Executive Order on the Allegan County communities.

- All school buildings are closed to the public. Essential staff will report in order to ensure continued operations of the district.
- There will be no “make-up days”.
- Learning will continue. Local districts, as well as AAESA programs, are drawing up plans which may include on-line learning, paper packets, or some combination. These plans should be in place by April 28.
- High school seniors will graduate, if they were on pace to graduate.
- K-11 students will move up next year, if they were on pace to be promoted.
- The “Read by 3rd Grade” requirement for retention is suspended.
- State mandated student testing is waived.

Local district superintendents, curriculum directors and directors of specialized instruction are working together closely to plan meaningful instruction and determine what appropriate educational supports will look like for the remainder of the school year. While face to face instruction has ceased, we will continue to educate and support our students and families throughout this crisis.

In order to help us design these new education plans, please take a few minutes to fill out the recent family resources survey. You likely received a [link and phone number for the survey](#). Your responses are critical in helping us develop our ongoing support of your child's learning. Your child's teacher may also have called you to ask about internet access and device availability. They may be calling from an unknown number. If they leave a message, please listen to it and return their call. You can also email them or the school principal. As these new education plans are developed, I will be sharing them with you.

I know this is a difficult situation for everyone, but by following the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order and the directives of the CDC and county health department we can help save lives.

Sincerely,

William D. Brown
Superintendent