April 13, 2020

Dear Amazing Employees and Families of Flint Community Schools,

We have been taking the COVID-19 situation day-by-day and evaluating our plan of action while keeping in mind what is best for our students, staff, and communities.

All of us have had our lives upended by the coronavirus. Many of us are feeling anxious about our own health and those of others, and some of us have tragically lost loved ones. Yet, I am in awe of how our Flint community has come together to support one another and find creative ways to continue learning.

As you know, Governor Whitmer executed an Executive Order on April 2, 2020, to close Michigan schools and suspend face-to-face instruction for the remainder of the academic year in response to the continued spread of COVID-19.

While this is an unusual and unsettling time that will impact us all in different ways, as a school community, we must continue in our commitment to the children we are privileged to serve -- even from a distance.

For information on our next steps regarding a Distance Learning Plan, as well as state testing, employee pay, food distribution and access to school buildings, please see attached for frequently asked questions.

The health and safety of our students and staff is our priority. Please join us in keeping members of our community who are impacted by the virus in your heart. Stay hopeful, connected, and remember you are part of our family and are never alone.

While this plan is now set in motion for the remainder of the school year, there are many unknown details about what the future will hold beyond mid-June. We are grateful for your support and patience as we navigate and continue to respond to this unprecedented situation.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work through ever-changing circumstances.

Sincerely,

Anita J. Steward, Assistant Superintendent
Cassandra Washington, Executive Director of Human Resources
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the district’s Distance Learning Plan?
A. We are committed to ensuring all students continue to learn—regardless of their ability to access technology. Therefore, we have strongly encouraged parents and students to continue to complete work online or the learning packets.

Our Distance Learning Plan is due to the GISD for approval this week. There are several essential details of the EO that must be considered for developing and implementing continuity of learning for our students. The Board of Education, union leaders and teachers will engage in the development of how we plan to move the learning forward for our students. School employees will be instrumental in providing meaningful work in the context of the Plan.

Q. Will state testing, including the MSTEP and SAT, take place this spring?
A. We have learned from the Governor’s order that state testing, including MSTEP and SATs, will be canceled, though students will be given the opportunity to take the SAT and PSAT in the fall.

Q. Will high school seniors be able to graduate?
A. Seniors in high school will be able to graduate if they were on track to graduate as of March 11th. Those who were failing as of March 11, 2020 will have the opportunity to the extent feasible to demonstrate learning in the subject matter of the course and receive credit hours, as determined by the district.

Q. Will employees be paid for the remainder of the year?
A. Yes, we will continue to pay school employees through the remainder of the year. We are grateful for their continued service and commitment to the students, families and community of Flint.

Q. Will food distribution services continue?
A. Yes, we recognize that this crisis has placed an economic hardship on many of our families, and we will continue our food distribution services. Visit www.flintschools.org for the distribution locations and schedule.

Q. Are school buildings open?
A. Our schools and offices will continue to operate remotely to the fullest extent possible. District buildings are open on a very limited basis only to essential employees. If you have questions or requests, please email superintendent@flintschools.org. We are trying to protect our staff, our students and our community.