



## Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

1414 West Main St - Jacksonville, AR 72076

Ph: 501-241-2080 Fax: 501-241-2092

[www.jnpsd.org](http://www.jnpsd.org)

*Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day*

---

December 1, 2020

3:54 pm

JNPSD School Community:

Please continue to stay informed through all of our postings on JNP social media, JNP website, local media, and other communication outlets. All community updates, official documents, and other information posted since March 6 is available for your reference.

### **Governor's Press Conference (APSRC Report)**

The Governor's Winter COVID-19 Task Force has recommended adapting the Trauma Com System, so it can be used to facilitate COVID-19 patient transfers to hospitals that can accommodate their needs at the right time. This would serve as a way to prevent hospitals in particular regions of the state from becoming overwhelmed. Governor Hutchinson has accepted the recommendation from the committee and the state will work to get it implemented in approximately two weeks.

Arkansas Department of Education Deputy Director Dr. Ivy Pfeffer reported there are 29 active modifications in Arkansas schools so far this week, 10 of which started this week. Most of these are caused due to staffing shortages due to quarantine.

The Governor announced that the state will waive the \$75 application fee and expedite the paperwork for the new round of teachers completing this semester.

"It appears to me from the national commentary that there is a growing national recognition that our schools are important to stay open. You see New York City, they've been as tight and restrictive as any state and yet they've opened up the schools in New York City again. You hear Dr. Fauci articulating the importance of schools. So I am pleased with the hard work of our teachers and making sure our schools can stay open, sure we have to switch to virtual from time to time, but school staying open is increasingly important for the education and wellbeing of our students. So the teachers are critical to this effort. We've had to rely upon substitute teachers. We've had to rely upon additional staff. Sometimes schools have had to close because of a shortage of staff and teachers. So just as we did with the nurses, I'm pleased to say the State

Department of Education will be asking the Board of Education to waive the application fee of \$75 and to expedite the applications of the new round of teachers that will be coming out of school this next semester, and hopefully we will be able to get them into the classroom and available for our schools in a much quicker fashion and also with some assistance and incentive by waiving that application fee of \$75," Governor Hutchinson said.

Dr. Pfeffer said the accelerated licensing and the waiver of the \$75 application fee will be for first-time licensees in Arkansas, whether they are completing a program of studies or a teacher coming into the state through reciprocity. Teachers will still be required to get a background check and complete the Central Registry Child Maltreatment.

1. Please update any contact information with your child's school. An increasing number of messages are being sent through our school communication system that is linked to your contact information in eSchool. Phone calls, email, and text messaging are being used to send a variety of important messages.
2. A reminder will be sent to you soon via email and text message to complete a school survey for parents, staff, and scholars. The JNP Board commissioned the National School Climate Center to administer the electronic surveys to provide feedback on various issues. The board will see all reports from the survey.
3. COVID data updates are shared weekly as state health information is updated. School district case numbers were added to our data update and will continue to be part of these weekly updates to our community.

As new information becomes available, you will be advised.

Thank you for supporting JNPSD during this critical time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Duffie', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.  
Superintendent