

3/31/2020

Good afternoon HCUSD No. 5 stakeholders,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. Today, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through April 30 in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

During this time, on-site learning will remain suspended but our schools' commitment to learning and education will remain open and learning will continue for all students – just through a different format.

During this time, the focus of our schools will continue to revolve around providing meals to families, clear communication with our families and engagement of all students in the learning process. Please see the district website for the current food distribution plan.

On Friday, March 27th we received guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education regarding the remote learning days. Specifically, starting March 31, 2020, all Illinois school districts must transition from Act of God days (March 17 through March 30), to Remote Learning Days and Remote Learning Planning Days (March 31 through April 30). These days are not required to be made up.

During Remote Learning Days and Remote Learning Planning Days, which now constitute pupil attendance days, districts must provide instruction to students remotely by implementing an E-Learning Plan or adopting a Remote Learning Day Plan approved by the district's superintendent. This plan is currently being crafted and will be located on the district website per the requirements by ISBE.

Our teachers, support staff and administrators continue to have conversations around improving the remote learning opportunities for all students. During the remote learning days, districts are allowed to use up to 5 days for planning and professional development. The district will assess the need for planning/professional development days and communicate if and when these days will be used. We would not expect any engagement between teachers and students on these days.

As decisions are made, please be aware that communication will be provided through a number of avenues. We have been utilizing Apptegy to communicate through Facebook, Twitter, Live Feed (App and Website), texts to numbers we have in Powerschool, and email (also as listed in Powerschool). As always, please monitor the district website at www.highlandcusd5.org for a complete compilation of communications. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Sutton, Superintendent