



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

August 8, 2020

12:58 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 and other information posted since March 6 is available for your reference.

Governor's Press Conference Yesterday (APSRC Report)

Governor Hutchinson expressed his strong support for the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) COVID-19 Emergency Leave for School Employees Proposal. This proposal will be considered by the CARES Act Steering Group next week. If approved, \$20 million from CARES Act funding will be used to provide teachers and support staff with up to two weeks of paid leave in the event the school employee has to quarantine or isolate for COVID-19 related reasons.

Education Secretary Johnny Key shared that one of the most common topics teachers have indicated was a group was in regards to leave in the event they have to quarantine or isolate.

"We have taken that to heart and looked at developing a COVID-19 Emergency Leave for school employees that would be available to them first. This is important because they can access this leave first before they have to start taking any of their other sick days or any of the other leave options that are available under FMLA. The \$20 million is an estimate. We tried to estimate high because we certainly do not know what levels of outbreaks we could have, but we want to be prepared when and if it does happen," Secretary Key said.

Secretary Key also emphasized that this is available to teachers and support staff, including classified employees such as bus drivers and cafeteria workers.

Jacksonville-North Pulaski Superintendent Dr. Bryan Duffie provided an update on the plans and activities his district has made to prepare for the return to school.

“We are ready to offer in-class instruction and virtual instruction as needed for students and families. For many of our kids and families there is just not a substitute for in-class instruction,” Dr. Duffie said.

Secretary Key was asked if reports that some people who have called the Ready for School Resource Center were unable to get answers to their questions indicate a lack of sufficient plan for school, communication, etc.

“Any time you set up a hotline like that, it’s very possible those answering the call are not going to have the answer right at that moment. Where we can, we provide the answers, but where we can’t we also take the information and we seek to find the right resources and connect the caller with those resources. I would also point out that there has been overwhelming number of calls over the last few days, and the team that’s there is doing the best they can to answer the calls as they come in, take down the information and then follow back up with the callers once they get the information for them,” Secretary Key said.

1. The Arkansas Department of Education is partnering with UAMS, ADH, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Consulate, the Arkansas Bilingual Bicultural Education Support Network and the Office of Coordinated Support and Service. The call center will be open from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

The number is 1-833-353-6050.

2. Please watch for school announcements about virtual open house events for each school and virtual school orientation.

3. Videos have been posted on the JNP social media outlets that illustrate safety protocols being implemented in our schools. Please review for the latest information.

3. Arkansas Center for Health Improvement COVID Data for Jacksonville:

Total Cases = 394

Active Cases = 77

We appreciate your support of our scholars and families as we approach the start of the new school year.

Respectfully,



Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.
Superintendent