



## Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

*Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day*

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September 29, 2020

4:16 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 Release (APSRC Report)**

"I want to recognize the life, contributions and service of Superintendent Jody Jenkins of Atkins who passed away early this morning from COVID-related complications. I know that he was highly respected throughout the River Valley for his devotion to his family, for his love of sports and love of education and he will be missed. I wanted to recognize his life and his service that he gave," Governor Hutchinson said.

Governor Hutchinson shared that active cases among public school districts have dropped from 748 active cases the week of September 21 to 717 the week of September 28. Active cases among colleges and universities has also decreased with 701 active cases the week of September 21 to 490 the week of September 28.

"This shows action makes a difference and the clear steps that have been made at the college level particularly have reduced active cases," Governor Hutchinson said.

Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key reported as of noon today, 36 schools are currently under a modification of operations. Ninety-three schools have inactive modifications. Last week, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education saw 26 modifications take place, which was an increase of previous weeks; however, ADH and the division believe this increase is a reflection of Labor Day weekend activities.

"Districts continue to work with teachers for their Ready for Learning Plan. We continue to get feedback from teachers that the balance between the virtual and the onsite needs to be looked at. We are working with districts to make those modifications within their plans, working with their Ready for Learning committees to make those adjustments so

as to relieve some of that stress that is currently on the teachers now, and continue to provide that support,” Secretary Key said.

Secretary Key added, “As we have been asked about the changes and cancellations of football games, I just want to remind that is exactly what we have asked them to do when we set forth before the school year began, looking at the response levels and some of the activities that needed to be curtailed depending on the data locally. Those are the things that we would have expected them to do. We believe they are doing it very well. They are looking at each week what they need to do and the changes they need to make. As an overall assessment, our school districts are continuing to do a good job in coping and dealing with this current pandemic.”

When asked for his message to teachers and educators concerned upon hearing of the Atkins Superintendent’s death, Secretary Key said, “Whenever something like this happens, especially in the middle of a school year, it can jar a community but it also helps us all reflect. I’ve talked to superintendents today and they are reflecting and looking at, again to redouble their efforts, to make sure safety precautions are in place as much as is possible. Obviously a fatality is never something that we look for, but when they do happen, what does that help us do internally, individually and with our teams, and those are conversations that I expect are going to be happening the rest of this week and into next week. Superintendents, principals and teachers in districts around the state talk about ‘are we doing everything we can?’ I expect that there will be a redoubling of efforts to make sure that the risk mitigation is as strong as possible.”

**1. JNP FAMILIES WHO STILL NEED TO ENROLL CHILDREN IN SCHOOL:** Please enroll your child as required by state law. Previous updates have publicized information regarding on-site and virtual options for families. All scholars still on the JNP roster who have not shown up for classes will be dropped effective September 30. Any violations of attendance laws will be reported as required by state law. Please contact your child’s school as soon as possible.

2. In the coming weeks, school surveys for staff, parents, and scholars will be available to provide feedback about various aspects of school operations. More information will be shared in the future.

Thank you for supporting JNPSD.

Respectfully,



Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.  
Superintendent