

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Phil Stevens, Superintendent

March 13, 2020

Good Afternoon Willington Public Schools Community,

First, I apologize if some members of our school community did not receive my phone message last night. Our communications company has assured me the system has been repaired.

The Coronavirus has forced us to make some challenging decisions this week. After communicating with The Eastern Highlands Health District and state officials we made the decision to close the Willington Public Schools from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27 out of an abundance of caution for students, staff, and the community. State officials have shared that closures may last longer depending on the progression of the virus.

School Calendar

Districts were notified yesterday that the state lifted the 180-day minimum student attendance requirement. We are required to be in school until June 30 in an attempt to reach 180 student days though. The Board of Education will review the school calendar in the upcoming weeks as the Coronavirus progresses and we have more information. It is unclear if we will need to eliminate some or all of April vacation and/or Good Friday and will communicate that in the coming weeks.

Distance Learning

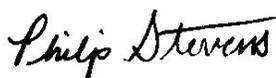
If the closure goes beyond two weeks we may need to institute a distance learning plan which we are currently establishing. Teachers may be providing supplemental learning materials for the initial two-week closure, but they are not mandatory and will not be graded. Many students have the opportunity to voluntarily use our iReady program at home. All you need is a good book though as this is a great opportunity for our students to read!

Food Services

We arranged for our Willington Food Services Program to serve cold meals to go (breakfast and lunch) between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the back of Hall School. Meals will be served weekdays starting on Monday, March 16 and concluding Friday, March 27 unless the closure is extended. All Center and Hall School students are eligible for this service. Breakfast items may include cereal, muffin, or bagel, and fruit and milk. Lunch items may include peanut butter and jelly, peanut butter and fluff, or peanut-free sunflower butter and jelly, along with milk, fruit and a vegetable. The bagged breakfast and lunch will be served together.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely and make decisions in the best interest of our students, staff, and community. I encourage you to be vigilant during this uncertain time and to adhere to the warnings of state officials. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Phil Stevens