



Kankakee School District Family and Community:

These are unprecedented times. It is important for you to know that we are preparing ourselves to support learning for our students regardless of the length of time it takes to return to the school buildings.

In the past 5 years, we often informed students, staff and community members how important it is to prepare our children for a time that we would not understand; and for technology and jobs that do not exist. Here we are and I, personally, assure you that we will be fine.

Recently, before this crisis, I had the opportunity to discuss the changes in Kankakee with an educator who I highly respect. He talked about how we do not need to just reform education; we need to new-form education. That is exactly what we need to do now. We need to new-form education so that we can serve our children outside of the walls of the school building.

Kankakee has been implementing Learning Anywhere/Anytime through our Competency-Based Education (CBE) Waiver for almost two years. We are ready to continue and improve upon what we have already done. We will be adding the following services to our Learning Anywhere/Anytime model after our scheduled spring break:

School on Wheels

We will work collaboratively with our bus drivers and other staff to provide support in the community for students such as repairing technology, delivering/picking up assignments and providing interpreters for families who speak primarily Spanish.

Childcare Stations

We will provide support to district staff and critical responders who need support with children while providing services to our students and the community. The stations will be limited to five children and two adults. We are asking that employees and critical responders only use the service if necessary. We will not assign high-risk staff members to the stations.

Teacher Support

We hope to provide the majority of our support through teleconferencing or virtually. However, in the event that a teacher needs face-to-face support, we will offer support to teachers individually or in small groups in isolated areas within the district.

High School Senior Support

We will do whatever we can to support our high school seniors through this crisis. It is important that our families pay attention to the work that they are required to do once 4th quarter begins whether we are online or back in our buildings. Our current seniors are on the credit system. It is important that each senior focus on

completing the credits required for graduation. We will assign additional staff members to monitor the progress of our seniors.

Many people are concerned about the status of prom and graduation. We will not be able to have prom as scheduled in April. We are currently looking into other options. Based on what we know today, graduation will continue as planned. In the event we are not able to return to school in May, we will explore other options for a graduation date. We will give you weekly updates beginning next week.

Summer Learning

Please note that the traditional summer school will not be the same. We plan to monitor student engagement and learning closely during 4th quarter. If we have concerns about students making progress during the time that we are on Learning Anywhere/Anytime, we will communicate with families and students around extending the learning for those students into the summer.

Increase use of Technology

The technology department is currently exploring ways to increase our use of technology. For example, we are working to explore ways to create Virtual Classrooms in order to connect both our students and teachers. We are also brainstorming how to support students who do not have access to Wi-Fi.

We are doing our best to create the best possible learning environment given the situation that we have. Please communicate closely with your teachers and building administrators so that we can support all of our students through this challenging time.

Dr. Geneva A. Walters

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Geneva A. Walters'.