

Good afternoon,

Governor DeWine has [officially closed school buildings](#) for the remainder of the school year. In light of this decision, ESC offices continue to be closed and operating as they currently have through at least Friday, May 29th. We are taking all required as well as additional precautions recommended by state and local health officials seriously and want to ensure staff and visitors are able to return to a safe environment before permitting them to do so.

I also am aware that staff members may have materials and files that need to be collected from or dropped off at office locations. We will be permitting staff to schedule a restricted amount of time to visit office locations to do so. Requests can be made through their supervisor and scheduled through Deputy Superintendent [Mike Trego](#). Please be reminded that any visit will [require responsible protocols](#) such as face coverings, hand washing, sanitizing, staggered visits, and social distancing. And of course, if you are ill and/or have a fever, please stay home and take care of yourself.

Finally, I wanted to continue my expression of gratitude for all that you have done through this time and are planning to do moving forward in support of children and schools. Here are a few highlights: The Center for Achievement and Leadership has continued organizing multiple sessions to assist schools and educators with issues surrounding graduation requirements, remote learning curriculum, educator evaluations, the business advisory council, and more.

- In the Center for Student Services, the Ventures Academy and Ventures II programs continue supporting their students through virtual and remote platforms as do the Mosaic and EPSEA programs and the feedback from parents and students has been really positive. These families feel supported in difficult times thanks to you.
- The Center for Technology and Digital Learning has continued supporting staff and schools with this massive shift to remote work, learning, and teaching. They continue to evaluate programs and platforms that might best serve the needs of students and educators, which is only growing in importance as we move toward summer and next school year with so many unknowns.
- The State Support Team has done a wonderful job of shifting their technical assistance and support to remote platforms while OCALI is doing the same and both are offering resources for educators, families and caregivers focused on supporting students and individuals with disabilities.
- And the Office of Communications continues sharing resources, updates, requirements, recommendations, and more while also continuing to support each of our Centers as they work to do the same.

As I said before, and it's worth repeating, please continue to support your coworkers, family, friends, and communities as we move forward and please take care of yourself and your own health needs. Stay well and take extra care.

Tom