

Decorah Community School District
School Closure Evening Update
March 16, 2020



Good Evening,

It has been a day full of meetings and webinars. I am attaching the most recent guidance document from the Iowa Department of Education.

We have been, and will continue to use this document to develop plans for the next several days.

There are a couple items I want to share tonight.

Our buildings will continue to be closed to students and the public tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

We are planning for Wednesday, March 18 to be a day when students can come to school to retrieve materials and pick up tech devices. As you can see from the attached guidance, there are some important guidelines we must consider as we think about how we will handle the availability of online learning options for students.

We will be developing guidelines for when students and families can access buildings in order to minimize the number of people on site at any one time. It is also important to note that there will be no expectation that students have to come to school to get their district issued tech device. This will be optional, and we will be offering the opportunity to take district technology home as a service to our families during this unique time.

We have submitted the necessary paperwork requesting a waiver so we can provide some type of nutrition services for school-age children. A waiver is necessary because we do not meet the 50% or higher free/reduced lunch percentage requirement for a district summer lunch program. My hope is that we will receive the waiver, and can begin to provide a food option for our students.

It appears the legislature and governor are going to take some action to provide flexibility in making up or forgiving days missed. The board will discuss this topic tomorrow during a special meeting. I will share additional information after we know more about the changes coming out of the statehouse.

If I did not answer a specific question you have, please feel free to email, but please be understanding that it will take time for me to get to individual responses.

Thanks for your patience, and your support of Decorah Schools.

Mark M. Lane, Superintendent of Schools

[3.16.20 Department of Education Guidance Document](#)