

**Decorah Community School District**  
Requesting Parent Feedback  
April 1, 2020



Decorah CSD Parents,

Last Friday afternoon, the Iowa Department of Education emailed and posted a new guidance document, [COVID-19ContinuingLearningTaskForceGuidance03-27-20.pdf](#). I believe the release of this document is an indication that Governor Reynolds will be moving toward an extension of the current four-week emergency closure through at least Friday, April 24. My hope is that we will know more about a potential extension of the emergency closure by the end of the week.

This latest guidance document details two options for Iowa school districts to consider as we plan for the possibility of an extended emergency closure, or even the possibility of the remainder of the school year being cancelled. The two options are Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities, and Required Educational Services. You can read about these two options by accessing the full guidance at the link above.

Tuesday morning, a team of over 30 Decorah team members, including board members, administrators, and teachers began an internal process to make a decision about which option the district will pursue.

Regardless of the option we ultimately pursue, there are several guiding principles that will apply to our work as we navigate this unpredictable time.

### Guiding Principles

- Student learning and well-being are our fundamental purpose, and will be the primary focus of all decisions and actions. We will give special attention to student and family well-being given the unpredictable and stressful nature of current events.
- We will be mindful of the unique capacity dynamics this emergency closure creates for our families and staff. We will attempt to foster asynchronous opportunities so staff, students, and families can engage in work and learning on their schedules.
- We will use research-based expectations for daily learning time.
  - Our recommended guidelines for maximum student commitment each day are:
    - PreK- 30 minutes
    - K-1- 45 minutes
    - 2-3- 60 minutes
    - 4-5- 90 minutes
    - 6-12- 30 minutes per teacher (no more than 3 hours total daily)

We would also appreciate hearing from you. Below you will find links to parent surveys for each of our buildings. Please complete a survey for each building at which you have at least one student.

We appreciate your feedback and assistance in planning for this unique situation. Please complete a survey for each building at which you have at least one student.

[DHS Parent Survey](#)

[DMS Parent Survey](#)

[Carrie Lee Parent Survey](#)

[John Cline Parent Survey](#)

[West Side Early Childhood Center Parent Survey](#)

Thank you for your support of Decorah Schools.

Mark M. Lane, Superintendent of Schools