



**6 p.m. April 20, 2020**

Dear Fayette County Public Schools families:

This afternoon, Gov. Andy Beshear announced his recommendation that Kentucky schools not return to in-person instruction this academic year. As we watched the spread of COVID-19 across our nation and closed our schools in support of the governor's efforts to slow the virus in the Commonwealth, many of us had prepared ourselves for this possible eventuality. Even so, today's announcement carries a finality that many of us hoped would not come to pass.

The governor's decision means we will extend our Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) through the end of the school year. Thank you for all you are doing to keep your children engaged in learning while they are at home. We understand that every family is unique, and we appreciate your collaboration and patience as we work to accommodate each circumstance.

Teachers, principals, and district leaders are very sensitive to the fact that families are juggling a lot right now. While the implementation of Non-Traditional Instruction provides a way for us to keep students engaged in learning, it was never designed to be a long-term replacement for the learning that happens over the course of a day, week, or month of school.

Each school is communicating academic expectations directly with families, but I want to assure you that work done during NTI will not lower any student's grade. We will provide plenty of flexibility to help students complete work and allow safety nets for students who need additional help.

Kentucky's Interim Commissioner of Education announced today that the state Department of Education will let each NTI day count as seven hours of instruction, which will allow us to end the school year sooner than originally scheduled. School districts in Kentucky are required to complete a minimum of 1,062 instructional hours, but because of our commitment to prepare our students to compete in a global society, the regular school year in FCPS exceeds the minimum requirements. In these unprecedented circumstances, our longer year now provides flexibility in how we will adjust the calendar to meet the minimum hourly requirements.

Prior to the implementation of Non-Traditional Instruction on April 6, students in FCPS had missed 11 instructional days (Feb. 6 and 7, March 16-19, and March 23-27). If we convert Tuesday, May 19, 2020 (originally a day off for students because of the primary election) to an NTI day, our district will reach the 1,062 requirement on May 27, which would allow us to end the school year one day earlier than originally scheduled. At the next meeting of the Fayette County Board of Education on April 27, we will ask the school board to amend the instructional calendar to make Wednesday, May 27, the last day of school for students.

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Education: Stephanie Spires, Chair • Raymond Daniels, Vice Chair • Daryl Love • Christy Morris • Tyler Murphy

Superintendent Emmanuel Caulk

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Under ordinary circumstances, the end of the school year involves a flurry of planning for graduation, promotion ceremonies, field days, arts celebrations, proms, and other special milestone events. Unfortunately, COVID-19 remains a rapidly changing situation. Like you, we are looking to national, state and local health experts to advise us on when we can be together again. At this time, the governor has said no in-person proms or graduation ceremonies can take place because our state has not met the requirements to enter Phase I of reopening.

We do not know what the next six weeks will look like for our community, but we do know how important these traditions are for our students, staff, and families. Please be assured that we are actively exploring possible ways to safely celebrate the end of the school year and the accomplishments of our amazing young people. We will continue to share information as it becomes available.

In addition to our core purpose of educating children, while our schools remain closed, we will continue to:

- Prepare and distribute free breakfast and lunch for children at [21 school pick-up locations](#). Meals for multiple days are available on Mondays and Wednesdays between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Any individual 18 years of age and younger can pick up meals at any location; not all children need to be present.
- Work with community partners to provide supplemental meals to families in need. Since new offerings are developed constantly, anyone seeking information about these resources should call the United Way of the Bluegrass 211 Contact Center for the most up-to-date information.
- Keep health clinics open at Cardinal Valley, Tates Creek, and William Wells Brown elementary schools, and Lexington Traditional Magnet School to serve students and families. Please call HealthFirst Bluegrass at (859) 288-2425 to check on availability and see which clinic is best suited for your needs.
- Support more than 3,000 families with weekend food through our [Family Resource Centers and Youth Services Centers](#). We are especially grateful to the Jenna and Matthew Mitchell Foundation at Blue Grass Community Foundation and The Calipari Foundation for making it possible to support hundreds of families during this unprecedented emergency.
- Respond to and support the social and emotional well-being of youth and families with our district mental health professionals. To reach this service, call (859) 381-4100. If you are experiencing an immediate mental health crisis, please call the New Vista crisis hotline at (800) 928-8000. This is a local service.

Being apart has made connection more important for all of us. Through phone calls, emails, videos, and virtual meetings, our staff is continuing to reach out to the students and families we serve. Please help us keep lines of communication open by staying in touch with your child's teachers.

Your partner,



Manny Caulk  
Fayette County Public Schools superintendent