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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **June 4, 2020**

## **Crawford, Erie and Warren County School Superintendents Issue Statement on School Closing due to COVID-19**

*“Unprecedented Times Call for Unprecedented Solutions”*

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Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) recently released preliminary guidance for the reopening of Pre-K to 12 schools for the 2020-21 school year. This preliminary guidance was released to the public on June 3, 2020 with more guidance to be released in the middle of June.

Superintendents from the tri-county region met this morning and recognize that each school entity is unique and that all plans for the upcoming year must reflect local needs. According to the guidance provided each school entity must create a Health and Safety Plan, which will serve as the local guideline for all school reopening activities. As with all school emergency plans, the Health and Safety Plan should be tailored to the unique needs of each school’s educational community and should be created in consultation with local health agencies and the district Pandemic team. Health and Safety Plans must be approved by each school board of directors. School entities must submit their approved Health and Safety Plans to PDE. These plans must also be posted on the school entity’s publicly available website prior to the reopening of school and providing services to students.

With a constant focus on the health and educational needs of their communities, the district superintendents in the tri-county region have determined that the best approach in developing the Health and Safety plans will be to have consistency in the planning process.

The next Tri-County superintendent meeting will be held on June 9, 2020 to begin to develop a consistent Health and Safety plan that best meets the needs of our Tri-County region. This meeting will involve individuals from the Erie County Department of Health for input into the creation of the Health and Safety plans.

### **Ongoing Regional Efforts**

Communication and collaboration between our school leaders is critical in navigating the circumstances affecting the 60,000+ students in Northwest Tri-County area. The 17 Northwest Tri-County school superintendents who are meeting virtually to share best practices and make informed decisions include the following individuals:

Mr. Jarrin Sperry, Conneaut School District  
Mrs. Sheri Yetzer, Corry School District  
Mr. Tom Washington, Crawford Central School District  
Mr. Brian Polito, Erie School District  
Dr. Erik Kincade, Fairview School District  
Mr. Richard B. Emerick, Fort LeBoeuf School District  
Mr. Richard Scaletta, General McLane School District  
Mrs. Donna Miller, Girard School District  
Mrs. Kelly Hess, Harbor Creek School District  
Mr. Shane S. Murray, Iroquois High School  
Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, North East School District  
Mrs. Darcie Moseley/Mr. Aaron O'Toole, Millcreek Township School District  
Mr. John Hansen, Northwestern School District  
Dr. Tim Glasspool, PENNCREST School District  
Mr. Mathew Bennett, Union City School District  
Mrs. Amy Stewart, Warren County School District  
Mr. Ken Berlin, Wattsburg Area School District  
Dr. Dean Maynard, Executive Director, IU5  
Mr. Bradley Whitman, Assistant Executive Director, IU5