

**Please direct inquiries to:
Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5
Dr. Dean Maynard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **March 20, 2020**

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

“The health, safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community are our top priorities. With the most recent mandate of non-essential business closings (including schools), we continue to reinforce preventive safety measures including social distancing and practicing the recommended safety measures that have previously been shared. Most importantly, it is clear that we all must work together to minimize the spread of this virus.”

Governor Wolf’s message:

To protect the public from the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), it is necessary that no person or entity shall operate a place of business that is not a life sustaining business regardless of whether the business is open to members of the public. Therefore, under the authority granted to me by law, I hereby order:

“No person or entity shall operate a place of business that is not a life sustaining business regardless of whether the business is open to members of the public. This prohibition does not apply to virtual or telework operations (e.g., work from home). Life sustaining businesses may remain open, but they must employ social distancing practices and other mitigation measures defined by the Centers for Disease Control to protect their workers and patrons. “

State Level:

We are waiting for further clarity of a possible extension of the status of the school closure. While waiting, school districts will be working with the intermediate unit on K-12 “continuity of education” plans. Legislation in the form of a School Code Bill as introduced by local Representative Curt Sonney is pending in the House and Senate that will create a special provision of the School Code applicable only to the 2019-20 school year. This legislation will provide much needed guidance as we continue to move forward with consistency. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Education is asking for any and every waiver possible as we navigate through this unprecedented time.

Local Level:

Several of the school districts continue to prepare and deliver breakfasts and lunches in a grab-and-go or a drive-thru approach. Food service has been deemed essential and will continue to be provided for each school community.

Parents are encouraged to closely monitor their school’s website to learn more about how each individual district will be providing “continuity of education”. These plans will vary from district to district.

Parents should also continue to keep learning happening as best they can at home. Provide structure for each day, be certain there is time for physical activity, reading and writing as well as keeping up with current events. Ask children to participate in the preparation of meals, daily household chores and have them continue to be social online.

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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