



**Joint Agreement Office**  
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Good Afternoon ECHO Family,

ISBE announced this weekend that remote learning will occur for the duration of the suspension of in-person instruction. As of now in-person instruction has been suspended through April 7 with a strong possibility of a longer suspension of instruction. This is not news to our ECHO family because we have been expecting these changes in light of our National COVID -19 epidemic.

Hence, ISBE stated that districts must develop instructional remote learning to allow for student engagement and continuity of instruction. We had already created an emergency eLearning Plan which will be posted on the ECHO website. In addition, ISBE has allowed for districts to have up to five Remote Planning Days (similar to PD days). We have discussed these days and will utilize remote learning days for March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 1<sup>st</sup>; information from building principals will be forthcoming. We are working closely with key stakeholders to revise our current emergency eLearning plan and to develop guidance on any potential remote planning days. School districts will not be expected to extend their school year calendar. All Act of God days, remote planning days, and remote learning days will count as actual days of pupil attendance.

In addition, our Regional ISC4 office has created a short professional development survey for teachers and staff to help assess their current professional learning needs. ISC4 plans to create professional development sessions and content to help meet these current needs. Please click on the link to complete this survey: [Professional Learning Needs Assessment](#).

In closing, I realize this international pandemic has created some fear, frustration, and despair for you and your families. I want to personally thank all of you for your continued support and dedication to our students/families, to your colleagues and to the entire ECHO family. We have all joined together to ensure that we are offering continuous learning opportunities, food service, and overall support to our families. I ask that we remember to keep those physically impacted by this virus in your thoughts as we all attempt to stay healthy. Thank you for all you do, WE ARE PROUD OF WHO WE ARE, THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE!!!

Respectfully,

*Sandra Thomas*

Dr. Sandra Thomas  
Superintendent