Dear NSSED families and staff,

**District Pandemic Communicable Disease Planning Committee**
We have formed a district committee to respond to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 issue. The committee is meeting regularly to implement our District Pandemic Communicable Disease Plan, developed per **Policy 4:180 Pandemic Preparedness**, discussing our efforts around prevention and responding to the evolving situation.

**Our practice is that students served by NSSED in member district buildings follow the emergency protocols, including drills, procedures, and possible closures, of those buildings.** To that end, we are providing links to information from all of our member districts.

NSSED plans determine practices at the following locations:
- North Shore Academy
- North Shore Academy - Elementary
- Little Adventurers Preschool at Winnetka Covenant Church
- Arbor Academy and PAES Lab
- NSSED Transition Center, including all community and vocational locations
- District Services Center
- All NSSED professional learning sessions, regardless of location

**Cancellations and Alternatives**
**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
To mitigate the risk of student and staff exposure to Coronavirus/COVID-19:

**School Events:** NSSED is canceling all school events (during and after school) that gather groups of visitors into our facilities, effective immediately.

**Volunteers and Visitors:** We are excluding volunteers and visitors (including parents) during school hours, effective immediately.

**Parent Meetings:** We are restricting parent meetings (including IEP meetings, family therapy, tours, observations, and parent-teacher conferences) to phone (or virtual if and when possible), effective immediately.

**Training Sessions:** All NSSED professional learning sessions and APS parent training, regardless of location, are canceled until further notice.

**Community-Based Instruction:** All community-based instruction and vocational opportunities are canceled until further notice.

**NSA-E Physical Education at JCC:** All North Shore Academy - Elementary student and staff visits to JCC are suspended, effective immediately. Physical education will occur on the NSAE campus.
**Home Visits:** All staff visits to student homes are suspended, effective immediately.

In consultation with our member districts, these cancellation decisions were made after carefully considering the news that yesterday the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that COVID-19 is now officially a global pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have asked communities to reconsider non-essential large group gatherings to minimize the potential spread of the virus. We and our member districts are monitoring the rapidly changing developments. Decisions to resume any of these activities or events will be made through consultation with the aforementioned groups and communicated as quickly as possible.

**Communication**

Communication to staff and families will be sent as events unfold. A record of these communications, and other resources, can be found on our website at nssed.org/covid19.

At this time, the Illinois Department of Public Health has **not** recommended that the cooperative close. In the event of a closure, we will contact you as we would for a weather event, by email, phone message, and on our website.

**Exposure and Transmission**

It is important to note that exposure to Coronavirus/COVID-19 can occur from any person-to-person contact and is not limited to a particular race or ethnicity. More information about Coronavirus/COVID-19 is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at CDC COVID-19. The Illinois Department of Public Health also has information available on its website, including a Coronavirus/COVID-19 hotline: IDPH COVID-19.

**Facilities**

In our facilities, we are intensifying and increasing the frequency of our cleaning process, including daily use of disinfectants.

**Planning Ahead**

We are recommending all families be prepared by having childcare plans in the event your child is home for an extended period of time or if there is a school closing. We understand these decisions may be disappointing for families and students. If you have any questions, please contact your administrator.

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NSSED Superintendent