



August 6, 2020

Dear MCS D families,

August 4, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves issued Executive Order #1517 regarding the start of school for several counties affected by the rise in COVID-19 cases. Marion County was not listed as one of the counties but during the course of discussing Executive Order #1517, Governor Reeves and Dr. Dobbs referenced their recommendation for delaying the opening of the 2020-2021 academic year for all students until August 17, 2020. Today, August 6, 2020, MCS D board met in a special called meeting to discuss the current situation.

In consideration of the families of our community, MCS D board voted to extend the mandates within Executive Order #1517 to apply to all students enrolled within the Marion County School District. Students at all Marion County School District schools will return to school on August 17, 2020. Distant Learning will begin as well on August 17, 2020. Although it is already written in the MCS D reopen plan, the governor did mandate that masks must be worn at school. Also, remember that Marion County School District will supply each student in our district with five new cloth masks at the beginning of each nine weeks.

Thank you to the families and community members who have continued to support our efforts to plan for the school year. The administrators and staff of the MCS D have worked extremely hard and have fine-tuned their individual school plans to ensure our students are safe. They are appreciative of your support and positive reception to the decisions being made. This is a fluid situation, and we must all remain flexible as we face this on a day-to-day basis. I appreciate your prayers for the school district staff and students, and I ask that we all continue to extend grace and kindness to each other as we work to do the very best we can to reopen school as safely as possible. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please submit them through our Q&A form at the following link <https://www.marionk12.org/covid19> or contact your child's school. Please continue to check our website and social media pages for updates.

Sincerely,

Wendy A. Bracey, Superintendent
Marion County School District