Dear LR Community:

This is our third correspondence regarding COVID-19 in as many weeks. We wanted to share the following press release with the LR community.

**Regional PK-12 Districts to Close in Response to COVID-19**

**Monday, March 16, 2020** - The spread of COVID-19 in our region requires school districts to be flexible and make decisions that are in the best interest of public health. In consultation with health department officials, the following PK-12 school districts will close through Friday, April 3.

- Ash Grove
- Fair Grove
- Logan-Rogersville
- Nixa
- Ozark
- Republic
- Sparta
- Springfield
- Strafford
- Willard

These districts are currently on spring break; therefore, students will not return as previously planned on March 23. Closure impacts all extra- and co-curricular activities, including athletic competitions, practices and after-school programs and events.

Districts understand this is a very uncertain time for everyone, but the public can be certain of one thing: districts are focused on protecting the safety and well-being of students, staff and their families.

Districts recognize this decision will have a wide-reaching impact on many people, so plans are being developed to support communities. These plans include providing the following:
- **Meal Service** will be provided in some capacity by each District. District plans will be communicated over the next week.

- **Childcare** for school-age children will only be provided for healthcare providers and emergency/first responders. Districts understand that childcare is essential for many families at this time; however, our goal is to "flatten the curve" and provide a balanced approach to supporting the healthcare system while also protecting students and staff.

- **Virtual and/or printed material-based learning** opportunities will be shared. District plans will be communicated over the next week.

Logistics and other specifics related to the delivery of these services during school closure will be forthcoming from each of the individual districts.

As this unprecedented situation continues to evolve, additional modifications may be necessary. As decisions are made, districts will share information through regular communication channels.

Families play an important role in protecting individuals from the spread of COVID-19 and are encouraged to follow the guidance of the [Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](https://health.mo.gov/) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/).

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