Introduction
The COVID-19 Pandemic has created an unprecedented situation the likes of which most of us have never seen. We are proud of how our staff and communities have rallied together to face this adversity and risen to the challenge to provide opportunities to feed our students and provide learning opportunities for our students.

Upon the closure of our schools, our member districts have been creating and implementing remote learning plans. These plans are intended to support students in the event of a temporary closure. Districts are modifying their plans to provide support for an extended closure and will continue to provide support for the remainder of the closure. Since your student attends a classroom in our member districts, your student will follow the remote learning plan of the district in which their classroom is housed.

Communication
Member districts will communicate critical information to our communities using district websites, social media, all call systems, and local media. Schools and teachers have also been using websites and social media accounts to communicate information, along with other web based tools such as Google, Zoom etc. We are all checking our email regularly, as well as voice mail at our office. Please contact us if you have any questions and we will respond as soon as possible. District phone numbers are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knox Warren Special Education</th>
<th>351-7224</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knoxville #202</td>
<td>289-2328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROWVA #208</td>
<td>483-3711</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williamsfield #210</td>
<td>639-2219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abingdon Avon #276</td>
<td>462-2301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth Roseville #238</td>
<td>734-4712</td>
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<tr>
<td>United #304</td>
<td>734-9413</td>
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Remote Learning
Remote Learning is learning that happens outside of the traditional classroom because the student and teacher are separated by distance and/or time. Remote learning can be real-time or flexibly timed, and it may or may not involve technology.
First and foremost, we recognize that remote learning is not an ideal situation. There is no substitute for the interaction between students and staff, and the learning activities that take place daily in our schools. This plan is not intended to replace that, but to be the next best option given the current circumstances and how districts have developed their plan. Therefore, these plans are an opportunity for students to continue to be engaged in learning activities during the closure. It will only be successful if students take time daily to complete the activities provided for them, whether in paper-and-pencil form, or digitally. We strongly encourage parents to create time and a physical space for students to take part in activities regularly.

Second, we realize that this situation has put all families under a great deal of stress, and that varies from family to family. Some of you live in single parent homes, while others in homes where parents/guardians are employed in essential positions and therefore aren’t home during the day. Some of you may have other family members living with you, and some may have family members who are ill, frail, or weak. And some of you live in homes where the mental health of some family members, such as anxiety or depression, may have an impact on the rest of the members of the household. We know that each family is different, and each family has unique stresses that are a challenge. Our commitment is to be understanding, reasonable, and flexible. There are some situations where we are limited in what we can do, but we will work hard to work with you as long as you communicate your needs to us. Again, you can do that through email, or calling the special education office or the member districts.

Lastly, we understand that this may be a particularly hard time for our students with special needs. Please know that we are making good faith reasonable efforts to ensure that your child will have access to education. We will be providing necessary accommodations and modifications. Please know that we will work as hard as possible to make sure our students’ needs are met.

**Grades**
One of the common questions during the closure has been whether or not student work will be graded. The member district remote learning plan in which your child attends will have specific information regarding grading of assignments during the shutdown.

**Guidelines**
- Students should be completing some learning activities every day, as well as any assignment or assessment that is part of each activity. The State Board of Education has issued guidelines for teachers when providing activities and assessments to students. We will continue to use those guidelines so that the activities are reasonable in length and what students are being asked to do.
- Students should contact your teacher if you have any questions, if you want to share your work with them, or you just want to say ‘Hi’! Teachers will be checking email regularly, and they are available to help during the closure, look at assignments/assessments, and say ‘Hi’ back. The closure is just as isolating for our staff as it is for you. Stay in touch and engaged.
● Teachers will not have “office hours”, but they will be available daily Monday-Friday for any help needed. Email is the best way to reach them. They will respond as soon as possible; usually within a few hours or within 24 hours at the latest.

● Our classroom aides, or paraprofessionals, will be engaged in learning opportunities, too. If students have a question, or just want to say ‘Hi’, they can contact our support staff via email during the closure, too.

Related Services
Some of our students receive services such as speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, school social work etc. Our staff will continue as best they can to provide those services for your child through remote means. These may include, but are not limited to phone calls, video conferencing, pen and paper activities sent home with specific skill building activities for the student to work on.

IEP Meetings
Annual reviews of a student’s IEP (Individual Education Plan) will still go on during the closure. These meetings help us to better support and educate our students. As parents your participation in these meetings is not only your legal right, but absolutely vital to the success of your student as you are the experts on your own child. Case managers will be contacting you to discuss IEP meetings and IEP meetings may be held remotely via video conference or phone conference with your permission.

In closing, our member districts and Knox Warren Special Education District will do our absolute best to support you and your students during this time. That includes responding to questions, connecting with you, serving meals, and being flexible. We know this is a trying time, and we’re all in it together. We are hopeful that we can return to school soon, but please know that we are preparing for an extended closure if that is ordered. Complying with social distancing and other measures in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 is of the utmost importance. Too many people have been infected, and have died. School is important, but nothing is more important than the well-being of our students, staff, and community. Stay strong, stay safe, and we will get through this together…