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Saturday, March 31, 2018

Dear Miami Public School Parents and Community,

It has been a crazy, hectic, and stressful last few weeks, to say the least. Earlier this week it looked like we had avoided a walkout. It appeared our state legislature had passed legislation to provide pay raises for support and certified staff, as well as restoring a portion of funding cut in previous years. However, just 72 hours later they (legislature) began dismantling the historic work they had just accomplished by repealing some of the revenue bills. Now, public schools and other core services are facing up to a \$170 million hole in funding. This means more cuts to schools and other state agencies.

Originally, MPS was going to be closed only on Monday, April 2nd to attend an 'Advocacy Day' to thank our legislators for their work, while reminding them to continue funding education. However, the recent decision of our state legislature has our staff very concerned about their commitment to fund public education. At this point, teachers and support staff do not feel like our legislature has stayed true to their word and feel the need to further advocate for the full funding that is necessary to not only provide for pay raises, but much needed classroom resources and supports. The message from our staff is clear. It is NOT all about a pay raise, but about protecting OUR students and providing them with the education they deserve.

In order to allow educators to unite at the capital, **Miami Public Schools will be closed April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th**. This will provide our employees the opportunity to emphasize the need for a long-term commitment supporting our students and our state. It is our hope that the legislature will do the right thing for our students. Originally, when the district was facing the possibility of a ten-day walkout, we made plans to address the supervision and nutritional needs of our students. Now, the situation has changed, as a majority of our support staff has indicated they will walkout as well until the legislature addresses these funding issues. Therefore, **supervision will not be provided during the walkout**. Please see below for details on how we will manage operations of the district in regard to meals, ACT testing, and other student activities.

Missed days will be made up in the following order:

- We will use the **two Snow Days** we have left to make up for being out on Monday, April 2nd and Tuesday, April 3rd.
- **Friday, April 28th** will now be added as a school day to make-up being out on Wednesday, April 4th.

Should the walkout extend beyond Wednesday, April 4th we will make up days missed by (in order):

- Attending school on May 5th, May 12th, May 17th, and May 18th.
- Lastly, we will add minutes to the remaining school days to try and avoid extending the school year past May 18th.

MPS firmly believes that we don't want our children's educational and extra-curricular experience to be punished any further by the inaction of the legislature.

- We will continue to hold all extra-curricular activities.
- We will continue with the ACT test scheduled for April 3rd.

Breakfast and Lunch will be offered (free of charge) to all students during the walkout. This service will take place **at Nichols Upper ES**. Transportation will be provided for meals only, as no supervision will be provided. Please see attached schedule for drop off and pick up times for meal. Also, we will deliver to the Boys & Girls Club.

- Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Beginning Wednesday, April 4th, we will evaluate the situation on a daily basis and notify the public by 3:00 p.m. each day of the district's plans for the following day. When we are able to staff buildings at a level that will provide appropriate supervision for our students, we will resume daily operations. Thank you for your understanding and valued support as we continue in our efforts to provide the best for the students of Miami.

Together in Education,



Jeremy Hogan
Superintendent
Miami Public Schools