

July 16, 2020

Dear Gratiot and Isabella County Families,

Over the course of the past few months, students, parents and families in Gratiot and Isabella counties have experienced education in a way they never have before. Our districts worked diligently and quickly to deliver remote instruction, create instructional packets and materials, monitor the needs of our students and families and distribute food. Through this experience, we have reflected on our successes and learned from our challenges. We have come together across our communities to share and improve our practices.

Since Governor Whitmer released the Return to School Roadmap on June 30, 2020, our districts have worked together to create a unified GIRESD plan. This is an important step that will have a great impact on how school will look when we return. Our plan will include safety protocols, instructional expectations, support for mental and social emotional health and operational procedures. Our goal is to get our students back to school in the safest way possible.

In the upcoming weeks, districts in Gratiot and Isabella counties will announce the details of our plans. At this time, each district plans to offer a face-to-face and a virtual program. We will also continue to collaborate with our regional Career Technical Education Programming. Students and families will be able to choose the program that best meets their needs. We will closely follow all of the required elements of the Return to School Roadmap, with safety being our first priority.

Working together, districts in Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District will create programming that will meet the needs of our students. Thank you for your support of public education in our communities!

Educationally yours,



Donnalynn Ingersoll, Superintendent
Alma Public Schools



William Chilman, Superintendent
Beal City Public Schools



Paul Hungerford, Superintendent
Fulton Schools



Sarah Kettelhohn, Interim Superintendent
Ithaca Public Schools



Jan Amsterburg, Interim Superintendent
Shepherd Public Schools



Traci Gavenda, Superintendent
Ashley Community Schools



Kimberly Thompson, Superintendent
Breckenridge Community Schools



Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent
Gratiot-Isabella RESD



Jennifer Verleger, Superintendent
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools



Jennifer McKittrick, Superintendent
St. Louis Public Schools

1131 E. Center Street, PO Box 310, Ithaca, MI 48847-0310
(989) 875-5101 Fax (989) 875-2858 TDD (989) 875-8720

*GIRESD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*