

Press Clippings 04/02/20

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Elgin U-46 cancels proms, postpones graduation ceremonies in wake of schools remaining closed through April 30

By: Rafael Guerrero



Proms to be held for Larkin High School in Elgin and District U-46's four other high schools have been canceled and graduation ceremonies pushed back as the state continues its shelter-in-place mandate to curb the spread of the coronavirus. (Rafael Guerrero / The Courier-News)

District U-46 has canceled its high school proms and pushed back the date of high school graduation ceremonies as schools remain closed through April 30 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I know that hurts to hear, but we will look to provide alternate events or activities once this crisis has ended," Superintendent Tony Sanders said in a message released to students and parents.

Proms for the district's five high schools were scheduled for early- and mid-May, according to school calendars. High school graduation ceremonies were to be held May 23 at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates.

Families will be notified when new graduation ceremony dates and arrangements are made, Sanders said.

Students have been out of school since March, when buildings were closed by the governor to slow the spread of the coronavirus. An at-home e-learning program started this week, and will remain in place through at least the end of April after the governor extended a stay-at-home order for all non-essential employees.

Almost two-thirds of middle and high school students checked in as present during the first day of remote learning Tuesday, Sanders said. For elementary school students, there were "only a handful of reported absences," he said.

In order to assist with attendance and absence reporting, the district posted tutorial videos navigating elementary and secondary student families on the process.

Sanders also provided these updates in his message:

- More than 250,000 free meals have been distributed through the district's food distribution sites since the service started two weeks ago;
- District staff members have delivered 20,000 gloves, 450 masks and 100 gowns to the Kane County Health Department for use by hospitals working with COVID-19 patients;
- More than 5,800 Chromebook computers were distributed to U-46 families that didn't already have at least one district-issued device, and there are plans to distribute more;
- Work is underway on a learning management system for teachers to access webinars, tools and resources to assist in e-learning plans.

"It's truly remarkable. We're going to continue to do great things – we just have to stick together as a community," Sanders said in his message.