Good evening parents,

Flexibility, grace and patience – these continue to be three characteristics that are so important as we deal with an unprecedented beginning to the 20-21 school year. I’m reaching out today with two updates on Wichita Public Schools planning work for the new school year:

1) **Governor recommendation to delay the start of school.** This afternoon, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced that she will issue an executive order on Monday to delay the start of school until September 9. There is a lot we will need to learn about the details of her executive order as it relates to our planning work, and we will provide more information as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have specific questions please feel free to reply to this email or send your questions to info@usd259.net.

2) **Online enrollment is open.** While there are still many questions unanswered, I strongly encourage you to complete the online enrollment process now. Once our start date and learning options for the year have been approved by the Board of Education, you will receive additional information and the opportunity to select either in-person or remote learning for your child’s school. You also currently have the opportunity to express interest in Education Imagine Academy (link), our virtual school for students grades K-12. Your enrollment now allows us to have the maximum amount of time to plan for staffing and safe learning environments for our children and our employees.

There will be much information coming your way about our Future Ready Return to School plan in the next two weeks. We will continue to reach out by email, voice mail and text message. In addition, updates and additional information will be posted on our web site – www.usd259.org/WPSreturn.

I’m confident that by continuing to work together, we will come out of this crisis and be stronger and more resilient in the end. In the meantime – MASK UP!, wash your hands, and practice social distancing.

Kind regards,

Alicia Thompson

Superintendent
Good evening parents, this is Superintendent Alicia Thompson.

Flexibility, grace and patience continue to be three characteristics that are so important as we deal with an unprecedented beginning to the 20-21 school year.

As some of you may have heard, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly this afternoon announced that she will issue an executive order on Monday to delay the start of school until September 9. There is a lot we will need to learn about the details of her executive order as it relates to our planning work. I know many of you have questions, and though right now I can’t answer them, I will provide more information as soon as possible.

What I can tell you is that online enrollment is currently available, and I encourage you to complete the online process now. Once our start date and learning options for the year have been approved by the Board of Education, you will receive additional information about the opportunity to select in-person, remote or virtual learning for your child. By enrolling now, you will provide us with the maximum amount of time to plan for staffing and safe learning environments for our children and our employees.

I know these times are difficult and stressful. I’m confident that by continuing to work together, we will come out of this crisis and be stronger and more resilient in the end. In the meantime, I encourage you to mask up, wash your hands, and practice social distancing!