MTI Friday Update

Throughout the school year, MTI provides a weekly Friday Update e-mail to MTI member leaders. Given the ongoing pandemic and school closures, MTI will be extending this weekly update to all MTI members in order to share timely information during this time of crisis. This weekly update will include summaries of daily e-mail blasts that MTI members will receive throughout the week and provide additional, timely information and updates.

There was an error in the previous message. This is the revised and updated message as of 10:25 a.m. Our apologies.
We are coming to the end of a spring break that is different from any that we have experienced before. There are many questions about what the future holds. MTI is working to provide as much information and support as possible to our members during this time.

Our motto is "We Teach the Children" and this means providing academic instruction, but also includes supporting our students' emotional and physical needs. Public schools provide food, stability, and resources that go beyond basic instruction. During times of crisis these needs are magnified and I know that you are already engaged in work that makes a difference for our students and their families.

MTI has advocated that the primary focus of the district should be on providing structures, systems, and supports that address the immediate needs of the MMSD community. I am proud to be part of a
Union made up of such caring and dedicated professionals.

My thoughts are with all of you as we continue to adjust and adapt to the rapidly changing conditions we are living in. Know that your Union stands in Solidarity with you and will continue to advocate for the safety and wellbeing of our members, students, and community. Take care of yourself and be safe.

**What We Know Now**

- All MMSD schools are closed through at least April 24. Governor Evers has closed schools for the duration of the pandemic (i.e. until further notice).
- MTI has gained MMSD assurance that all regular MMSD staff (i.e. other than daily substitutes) will continue to be compensated while schools are closed through the duration of the pandemic ([see MMSD compensation info here](#)).
- The BOE changed Spring Break from March 30-April 3 to March 23-March 27 ([see relevance below](#)).
- The District will be opening school buildings for teachers to voluntarily access their work spaces from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27 ([see MMSD email communication for more info](#)).
- The District is still planning on commencing online/web-based learning in early April.
- The District is still planning on providing staff online/web-based PD on how to provide on-line instruction the week of March 30.
- The District has informed employees that they are expected to “secure childcare” while they work remotely. **MTI has informed the District that “There is no childcare available for staff. It has been challenging for our community to find childcare for even essential services personnel. If the District intends to proceed with remote learning in the midst of a public health pandemic, the District needs to find a way for employees to do so while they manage their childcare, family responsibilities, and a public health pandemic.”**
- The **District has communicated leave policies** to employees who are unable to engage in online learning due to medical issues and childcare issues related to the pandemic.
The Federal government has enacted legislation to provide some defined paid leave time for employees impacted by the pandemic.

- MTI has waived USO-MTI dues for substitute teachers, sub SEAs, sub Clericals for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year given their unpaid status.
- MTI is offering Solidarity Fund loans of up to $1,000 for MTI members in need of financial assistance.
- MTI has donated $50,000 to the United Way to help fund Community Support during the pandemic and we will be linking interested and available members to volunteer opportunities available during the pandemic.
- Our state and national affiliates (WEAC and NEA) have been in constant communication with Governor Evers, and State and National elected leaders and Executive Orders and legislation have been enacted to address aspects of the pandemic.
- All of us need to take care of ourselves, our family, and our community and follow the recommendations of Public Health relative to hand-washing, social distancing, etc.
What We Are Still Advocating For

- Pay for substitute teachers, subs SEAs, and Substitute Clericals during school closures. Until/unless the District agrees to pay these employees, MTI encourages members who suffer unpaid status to apply for Unemployment benefits (more information here).
- Meaningful MTI teacher voice in any discussions/considerations related to distance/web-based learning.
- Our belief that the District’s primary focus during the pandemic should be in supporting the health (physical, emotional, and mental) and well-being of all, students, staff and families (see our statement and concerns about the Districts digital learning plan here).
Modifications to the Districts leave policies during the pandemic to allow staff to care for themselves and their families during this public health crisis.

- District assurance that they will be requesting a waiver from DPI relative to required instructional minutes due to the pandemic.
- Through our State and National Affiliates (WEAC and NEA), we will continue to advocate for additional resources from our State and Federal government to provide support for all students, families, workers, and employers during the pandemic. Read the NEA one-pager highlighting the impact of the The Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- Compassion, empathy, flexibility, grace, understanding, and solidarity as we collectively rise to this challenge.

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**Teacher positions available for Internal Transfer Posted April 3**

Teacher unit positions available for internal transfer will be posted beginning Friday, April 3rd, 2020 and every Friday thereafter (through the end of June 2020.) All transfer postings open on Friday, and close the following Wednesday night. Directions for how to apply for transfer can be found on HR’s Staff Only page: https://hr.madison.k12.wi.us/employeeforms#hide10.

Questions can be directed to Shauna Foss, HR Analyst at srfoss@madison.k12.wi.us.

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**Request your Absentee Ballot**
All voters in Wisconsin can request an absentee ballot be mailed to them for any reason. Voters must be registered before they can request an absentee ballot.

Voters may request their absentee ballot in writing. To request an absentee ballot on MyVote.wi.gov click here. You must provide a photo ID with your absentee ballot request, more information on photo ID can be found here.

Where To Find Additional Information

- MTI COVID-19 Updates
- MTI COVID-19 FAQ
- MMSD COVID-19 Updates
Download Solidarity Fund Application

MTI's Online Learning Statement to MMSD

MMSD COVID FAQ

Families First Coronavirus Response Act – New Leave of Absence & Pay Options for MMSD Employees

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This is a communication with members of MTI per Wisconsin Statute 11.29

Our mailing address is:
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