Hello Superintendents and Charter School Leaders,

Thank you all for joining our COVID-19 Update calls this week. Your thoughtful questions and feedback are helpful to us as we work with the Minnesota Department of Health on the public health decisions we need to make going forward.

Yesterday, we talked about a few important pieces of guidance we were working on, and they are finished now, so I wanted to get those into your hands as soon as possible:

- [Creating Equitable Grading Systems During COVID-19](#)
- [Academic Engagement and Attendance - Distance Learning MTSS Framework](#)

Additionally, I am excited to share that we have some language translated information about COVID-19 available for students and families in your school communities. We currently have information available in Hmong, Spanish and Somali. You can find those translations at the top of the [MDE COVID-19 Updates](#) page.

**Training and Support for Educators: Recorded Webinars**

As you know, experts at MDE and partnering organizations have been offering webinars for educators in areas where we've been hearing they could use some additional support. Our [Meeting the Needs of Individual Students](#) series covers topics such as mental health, supporting English learners, supporting students with special needs, and reaching those students who have not been engaging academically in distance learning. Starting today, trainings have begun in the [Building and Maintaining Relationships with Students and Families](#) series.

We are recording all of our webinars, and are adding closed captions to each one. We have a few webinars available online now on the [Distance Learning Webinars for Educators](#) page. We will continue adding videos as captioning is completed, so keep an eye out.

**Next Week's Superintendent and Charter Leader Call Information**

Starting next week, we will move to only having calls once a week on Thursdays.

**4:30 p.m. Call Information for Thursday, May 7**

Call-in Number: (877) 219-9848
Conference ID: 5745979
May 1, 2020

As always, please reach out to us at Distance.Learning.MDE@state.mn.us with questions, ideas and feedback.

Thank you for your continued partnership and leadership.

Together,

Mary Cathryn Ricker, NBCT
Commissioner of Education