



Larry B. Hammond, Superintendent  
Board Report  
April 21, 2020

COVID-19 issues continue challenging every aspect of society to include public education. I feel confident the Gallatin staff, while being supported by the Board of Education will excel under the current circumstances. The ongoing efforts to provide NTI, feed and support our students remain in the forefront of our thought process. Although the students are being deprived of face to face instruction with teachers and support staff, many connections are occurring daily with both students and parents. Both transportation and food service personnel continue serving the nutritional needs of students in exemplary fashion. Some members of the food service staff have already inquired and volunteered to work with the summer feeding program. We are exploring and making efforts to provide food this summer through a program called meals to you which is described as follows:

“Emergency Meals-to-You works to provide shelf-stable, easily prepared, kid-friendly meals to students in rural school districts during unexpected school closures lasting four weeks or longer. Under the authority of the United States Department of Agriculture’s Summer Food Service Program (USDA SFSP), along with already-applied, necessary waivers allowing non-congregate feeding models, local education authorities (LEA’s) can deliver meals by mail to their students. To be eligible, school districts must:

Participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP),  
Have at least 50% of enrollment eligible for free or reduced-priced meals (FRP). This requirement is covered if the district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), Note: USDA waivers changing SFSP eligibility do not change this requirement,  
Have an announced closure of at least four weeks (not counting spring break), and  
Fall under the designation of rural (can be checked here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/rural-designation> or here: <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>)”

Gallatin County has been most fortunate through the blessing of having no personnel showing symptoms of COVID-19. We are making plans to utilize this process to further ensure the health and well being of staff while meeting the nutritional needs of students. Less exposure will occur since we would likely have only one site being staffed by personnel.

Concerns for the upcoming year are ever present in our discussion. The conclusion of the current year and the beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year dominate instructional conversations. How will instructional plans/practices compensate for the loss encountered by students? The summer slide has been extended significantly due to current circumstances. With the most recent possibility of concluding the year for students on May 11, staff will be able to maximize productivity of the remaining contract days by customizing plans to meet students at their respective levels. RTI planning will be enhanced through effective usage of these days.