



A Message of Support from KGTC

April 1, 2020

Dear Kansas Educators and Gifted Families,

The events of the past week in Kansas have moved us quickly into a time of unprecedented uncertainty for our students and their educational future. Our skills and experience in gifted education are needed now more than ever. Our teachers are leaders in differentiating content and process to meet a variety of learning needs. We have experience collaborating to explore non-traditional methods of teaching and learning. We also understand the unique social/emotional needs of our gifted learners who think deeply and intensely about events beyond their own lives.

The current educational situation will require us to be creative, flexible and communicate clearly with students and each other. The board of the Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented and Creative has drafted this letter to offer some guidance as to what your role could look like for the remainder of the 2020 school year. We will continue to stay abreast of decisions related to gifted education services at the state level.

Each local district is making difficult choices about what types of services will be provided with these extended school closures. Please follow all guidelines set out by your school or district in response to COVID-19 to ensure your own health and safety and that of students, families, and other employees in the school and district. Schools must continue to provide essential services to children and families even in the event of a closure. Remain in close contact with your school to help shape what gifted services will be provided.

There are ways you might still participate in gifted services even while at home, including:

- Utilizing appropriately challenging enrichment learning opportunities virtually;
- Staying connected with students to offer emotional support and stability;
- Helping all students and families access school and community resources such as counseling basic food/household necessities;
- Completing required IEP paperwork needed to continue services;
- Conducting IEP meetings by phone or virtually to ensure that gifted services do not lapse;
- Helping general education teachers with ideas for differentiating content that may now be delivered online

We hope this list gives you some ideas about your new role in the time of school closures. Please continue to advocate for the needs of your gifted learners, who are often forgotten or dismissed in times of education reform and upheaval. Regional conferences have been postponed, but KGTC will be continuing to provide resources and ideas through our website and is continuing to plan a fantastic fall conference. We have created a special page for online gifted resources. <https://www.kgtc.org/ge-at-home-resources.html>

Please also consider reviewing regulations from KSDE regarding legal requirements for special education services during COVID-19 closures. These are available at bit.ly/KSDEcovidsped

National Resources can be found at:

<https://www.nagc.org/resources-educators-parents-during-covid-19>

Your own health and wellness are also very important! Please take steps to keep yourself and your family well in this time.

On behalf of the KGTC board,

Connie Staley Jessica LaFollette
KGTC President KGTC President-Elect

KGTC | www.kgtc.org



The Kansas Association for the Gifted Talented and Creative | 137 N 3 Hwy, Girard, KS 66743

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