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Greetings ICSD Community,

As a community, I know we are all still processing last week's news that we will not be returning to our common spaces this academic school year. For weeks, teams of educators in the Ithaca City School District have been planning for this scenario, and plans are in development regarding retrieval of student and staff items, end-of-year recognitions, moving up celebrations, graduation ceremonies, and more. **We will continue to think deeply about how to collectively provide a sense of closure for our students, families and staff, and how best to honor our children's accomplishments and learning.** Communication regarding many of these specific elements will be coming from each building's leadership.

Although buildings are closed, teaching and learning continue. I am excited to announce our first **ICSD Webinar 2.0 Series**, which will feature our district educators discussing innovation in distance learning, culturally responsive distance learning, and blended learning approaches. These panel discussions will be lively and informative as we learn and grow together. The webinar sessions will be held on **Mondays from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.** via Cisco Webex. To register for a session, visit ithacacityschools.webex.com and enter the event number: **791 053 491**.

Thanks to your continued feedback, we continue to update our resources and our [ICSD Distance Learning for Students and Caregivers](#) site. We acknowledge the many challenges our families are facing in these uncertain times and the unique challenges for caregivers of students with IEPs and 504s. If you have a student with special needs, please reach out to your Master Educator of Inclusion (MEI) with any questions and/or concerns. Additionally, your student's case manager will be seeking your input on the past and future weeks of Distance Learning 2.0. Their contact information and office hours are posted on our [website](#).

Lastly, in addition to continued teaching and learning, school district governance is ongoing as well. New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has yet to release final information about school district budgets. However, the Governor has announced that New York State budget votes and school board elections will take place **via absentee ballot**. We will be mailing voters ballots with self-addressed, stamped envelopes, which must be returned to 400 Lake Street no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2020**. We will continue to post updated information on the [ICSD website](#).

As always, please use the [Let'sTalk portal](#) to share your thinking with us. I continue to hold immense gratitude to the Ithaca community for all you do for our young people.

Regards,

Luvelle Brown Ed.D.
Superintendent