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STATEMENT

Regarding Gov. Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-35 Provision of K-12 Education during the remainder of 2019-20 School Year that suspends Face-to-Face Learning for 2019-2020

Troy, MI, April 4, 2020—The Michigan Parent Teacher Association (PTA) State Board released the following statement regarding Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's decision to suspend in-person instruction in Michigan schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year:

We, the leaders of the Michigan PTA, support Executive Order 2020-35 (COVID-19), Provision of K-12 education during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This order was issued during the time of an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, and Governor Whitmer made the protection and safety of our children and families a top priority. We thank her for having the wisdom and courage to make such a difficult decision. The order creates a structure for local school districts, working with administrators, teachers, parents and families, to create a plan to educate children by the best means possible at this time. It temporarily removes barriers and restrictions so that education may occur during this time when face-to-face instruction is not possible. Gov. Whitmer has put in place sweeping changes to allow for waivers that will ensure quality instruction takes place through a variety of methods. While we recognize that each district will develop its plan based upon local needs and resources, we are confident that the children in our state will continue to learn.

This will be a difficult time for educators, families, and our children. Working together, in collaboration with educators and families, we can address the resources in our communities and make each district's plan successful for their students. We will need to support our school staff and our families as we navigate distance learning, and devise new ways to acknowledge accomplishments and share memories for the remainder of this school year.

We, the Michigan PTA, stand ready to support our educational administration, superintendents, principals, teachers, families, and students as we go forward during this pandemic.

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***Michigan PTA mobilizes the forces of school, home, and community
in order to ensure a quality education and nurturing environment for every child.***