|  |
| --- |
| Education Week ® |
|  |
| Dear Reader: |
|  |
| Last week, the federal government called. A couple of times.In a week when the coronavirus response was building nationally and American school districts began closing in waves and we at Education Week were developing our own work-remote plan, no fewer than two federal agencies reached out looking for our help.Why? Because we created an [interactive map](http://e-news.edweek.org/ct/98676768%3A7lTlbKlqN%3Am%3A1%3A3179108969%3A3E58F2605FEE89B3D6D26E16A0F4909B%3Ar%3A3226414) that tracks school district closures and our information on the topic was more comprehensive and quickly compiled than anything the government had. The agencies needed our data.Of course, we shared it with those agencies. In fact, we made the spreadsheet that powers our school closure map free and open for anyone to download. So far, thousands have done so, and many, many more have viewed our map. We're empowering leaders to act quickly and make decisions in real time and there's nothing we'd rather be doing.It hasn't gone unnoticed. When it comes to the challenges COVID-19 creates for educators, Education Week covers it first and has been cited in the past week by The New York Times, CNN Online, U.S. News & World Report, Reuters Online and NBC Nightly News-to name a few. EdWeek.org and our staff ensure the latest updates are always available. If you haven't yet, [bookmark this page to stay updated](http://e-news.edweek.org/ct/98676769%3A7lTlbKlqN%3Am%3A1%3A3179108969%3A3E58F2605FEE89B3D6D26E16A0F4909B%3Ar%3A3226414). Or [sign up to get EdWeek Update or one of our other newsletters](http://e-news.edweek.org/ct/98676770%3A7lTlbKlqN%3Am%3A1%3A3179108969%3A3E58F2605FEE89B3D6D26E16A0F4909B%3Ar%3A3226414).As a subscriber, you'll be able to stay up-to-the-minute by visiting the website frequently for all of the mission-critical coverage.  Make sure you [log in to get unlimited access](http://e-news.edweek.org/ct/98676771%3A7lTlbKlqN%3Am%3A1%3A3179108969%3A3E58F2605FEE89B3D6D26E16A0F4909B%3Ar%3A3226414).  If you receive Education Week in print as well as digitally, please be assured we are working to make sure your print delivery continues on schedule. In case we can't get the printed issue to you,  [view the digital edition](http://e-news.edweek.org/ct/98676772%3A7lTlbKlqN%3Am%3A1%3A3179108969%3A3E58F2605FEE89B3D6D26E16A0F4909B%3Ar) to see what is in the most recent issue.Today, American society is facing a challenge of unique proportions. And as with any challenge to society, the impact and implications are more urgent and far-reaching in our school system than perhaps to any other institution.It's not just a news story, which is why it's good that we're not just a news organization. We're a mission-driven non-profit with a deep sense of responsibility to support the K-12 education community and a shared obligation to the future of our school children.Like you, we're working weekends and nights. Like you, we're trying to figure out how to work from home effectively when our children can't leave the house. We're worried about extended family and lost youth sports seasons and whether our office technology will be up to the task of all that must get done every day.But we're also energized by this moment of service. We are determined by the clarity of purpose this challenge reveals. Education Week exists to be a resource to the field of K-12 education. Sometimes that means visiting schools and learning about programs or curriculum approaches that are succeeding in new ways. Sometimes it means tracking budgets through Congress, or in state capitols.And sometimes it means collecting important data when nobody else is.On behalf of Education Week, I want to thank you for all that you're doing in this time of crisis. I want to thank you for turning to us as you have in record numbers in recent days. And I want to invite you to lean on us even more.-Scott Montgomery, Editor-in-Chief |
|  |