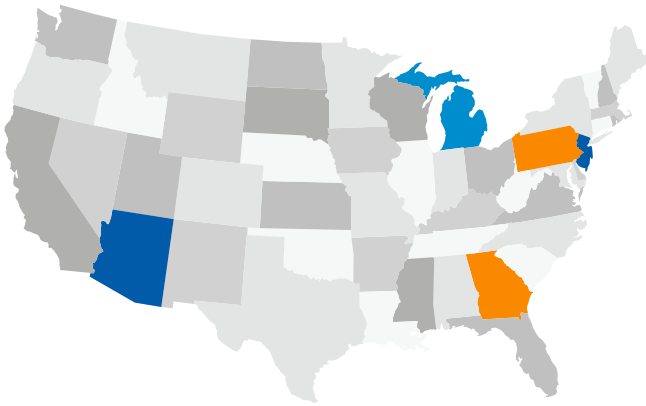




# Transforming Education in the Face of a Crisis

In K-12 Leader's Own Words





## **COVID-19 continues to impact**

operations and funding for K-12 education. Many leaders also see this crisis as a chance to come together and transform education for students across the nation.

To amplify that call to action, these leaders have graciously allowed ABM to share their contributions to our fact-finding conversations.



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We're not just talking about solving problems. We're creating new opportunities. We know from history that adversity has led to some of the greatest solutions and inventions and creations. I'm seeing our people redefining, reinventing, re-envisioning, and embracing change in the face of adversity.



Dr. Gennaro Piraino, Superintendent  
*Franklin Regional School District,  
Pennsylvania*



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The CARES and FEMA dollars can pay for some real needs, but those are one-time dollars. In terms of equity in education and addressing the technology divide – things that educational leaders have been advocating for now for a long time – there’s an opportunity here to really address the need for school finance reform.



Dr. Kristi Sandvik-Wilson, Superintendent  
*Buckeye Elementary School District,*  
*Arizona*



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Families are facing challenges. Lost jobs, food insecurity, illness. Our counselors, our administrators, and our nurses have done remarkable work there. Students have also lost social connections and teachers they've relied on. Some of our staff members have had tremendous losses in their families. So we're making sure that when we return, there's a lot of effort focused on mental health, not just for the students, but the staff.



Dr. David Aderhold, Superintendent  
*West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District,  
New Jersey*



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I am seeing so much innovation. I've got teachers who said they would never do a virtual class, and now they are amazing. Every superintendent is trying to figure out how to get through next year with minimum impact on students and staff, and I don't want to lose a single teacher. You can't be successful without a system in place, to make sure learning is robust and that kids are getting what they need.



Brian Galdes, Superintendent  
*South Redford School District,  
Michigan*



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We've tried to set an example for the community, reassure them that we are being safe and we're trying to be as smart about this as we can. But what are the metrics going forward? Students and teachers have adapted and flourished, but some students need more of the caring and nurturing that I think naturally occurs in a classroom setting. So we're talking about special sessions for students that need review and enrichment.



Wes Taylor, Superintendent  
*Lowndes County Schools,*  
*Georgia*



Thank you so much to everyone for the amazing leadership you've shown in your communities.

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