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***News Release***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 25, 2020

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**WMC Action News 5 Partners with Shelby County Schools to Broadcast Home Lessons for Local Students Who Lack Broadband Access**

The coronavirus pandemic has forced widespread school closures in the United States in an unprecedented disruption of K-12 education. For children living in homes without broadband internet service, the lack of schooling cannot simply be replaced by online distant learning substitutes.

WMC Action News 5, in partnership with Shelby County Schools (SCS), is therefore offering its broadcast programming and accompanying digital resources to support continued at-home learning and thereby provide greater access to educational resources.

Shelby County Schools is Tennessee’s largest public school district and is among the 25 largest public school districts in the United States. During the school closure, more than 113,000 students are home — many with limited access to technology or internet.

“As more districts address the potential for long-term school closure, it is essential to find ways to address digital disparities and continue to provide learning opportunities and critical services to our students,” said Shelby County Schools Superintendent Dr. Joris M. Ray. “We appreciate WMC for partnering to support distance learning.”

“While watching Dr. Ray speak during a press conference, I was struck by how much passion he had for his students affected by closed schools due to the Coronavirus.  I knew we had to do something at WMC to help out,” said WMC Vice President and General Manager Jonathan Mitchell. “Our team embraced the challenge of figuring out how to make this happen in a very short time, and I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

The Mid-South news leader, WMC Action News 5, will broadcast Shelby County Schools’ teacher lessons on its multicast station Bounce. Bounce is broadcast over the air on channel 5.2 and on Comcast Cable channel 906.

Jeffrey Wolf, Chief Distribution Office of Katz Networks added, “Bounce is proud to partner with WMC to be able to serve the needs of the Mid-South community and the children of Shelby County Schools during this unprecedented time.”

Beginning Thursday, March 26, the daily broadcast schedule will include SCS produced Pre-K through 12th grade lessons, activities and resources aligned to the same standards and assignments students would normally be working on at this point in the school year. The lessons focus on English/Language Arts (ELA), Science and Math. As the lessons are archived, students and families will have unlimited access to a video library.

SCS has also prepared take-home packets with reading materials and assignments for students without online access. For more information about SCS school closures and available resources, please visit [www.scsk12.org/coronavirusfacts](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fachieve.lausd.net%2fdomain%2f4&c=E,1,ir-AOsEsDBQo9v5rJFxgvCXvIiAnXiyjgL8H1dUS4vnOteuZehTTOtXKy5EnWL48PalM7T1tCaq7GKCwSBIIOOVINBxOVW4mMFVWczh-FqS6xiFkgUdKZwY,&typo=1)

WMC is owned by Gray Television, Inc.

*Shelby County Schools is Tennessee’s largest public school district and is among the 25 largest public school districts in the United States. Formerly comprised of two smaller districts, Memphis City Schools and Shelby County Schools, SCS serves over 113,000 students in more than 200 schools. We are the second largest employer in Shelby County with over 14,200 employees, including 6,500 teachers. Through our strategic plan, Destination 2025, we are committed to working toward three goals: 80 percent of students are college or career ready, 90 percent of seniors graduate on time and 100 percent of graduates will enroll in a post-secondary opportunity. To reach these goals, SCS has placed a strong emphasis in five high-leverage areas: early literacy, improvement of post-secondary readiness, developing strong teachers, leaders and support staff, expanding high quality school options and working closely with families and community partners to support our schools. SCS partners with almost 4,000 volunteers and 1,300 total school adopters and community partners to help impact student achievement.*

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