



**Statement from Bruce Robinson, CEO of Independence Mission Schools
April 3, 2020**

The current COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic is impacting every facet of our society in unprecedented ways. Doing everything possible to provide for the needs of the children and school families who rely on us each day while maintaining the health and safety of all members of our school communities has been central to all of our actions.

As independent Catholic schools, we rely on tuition and other fee-for-service revenue in order to operate. The current economic instability brought on by COVID-19 has negatively affected many of our families and their financial stability. In addition, other sources of operating revenue (NDS, Cares) have been put on hold until our school facilities re-open.

To mitigate the expected reduction in tuition collection for the remainder of the school year, and to continue delivering instruction with a focus on core academic subjects, the difficult decision was made to lay-off 180 personnel who are not directly involved with delivery or support of core instruction and who have not been working due to necessary building closures.

Additionally, all central office employees at director level and above, have taken salary reductions. Until this point, all employees had been retained and paid fully and we hope with a secured SBA loan we can bring them back prior to schools reopening. If we are unable to do so while schools are still closed, we believe under the CARES act they will be taken care of with regard to unemployment benefits. Additionally, IMS is covering their first month of benefits and waiving April and May tuition installment payments for those who have children in our schools.

Between reducing the impact of tuition loss through operational cuts, and the generosity of donors, the impact of the current economy will not be as detrimental as it could otherwise have been. We know our families are struggling with their own financial situations. Worrying about how their student will maintain his or her place at our schools should not be among their concerns and we will do everything possible to continue serving those who rely on and trust in us.

[Holy Cross](#)
144 E. Mt Airy Avenue

[Our Mother of Sorrows/
St. Ignatius of Loyola](#)
617 N. 43rd Street

[St. Barnabas](#)
6334 Buist Avenue

[St. Cyril of Alexandria](#)
716 Emerson Avenue

[St. Frances Cabrini](#)
405 N. 65th Street

[St. Gabriel](#)
2917 Dickinson Street

[St. Helena-Incarnation](#)
6101 N. 5th Street

[St. Malachy](#)
1012 W. Thompson Street

[St. Martin de Porres](#)
2300 W. Lehigh Avenue

[St. Martin of Tours](#)
5701 Loretto Avenue

[St. Raymond of Penafort](#)
7940 Williams Road

[St. Rose of Lima](#)
1522 N. Wanamaker Street

[St. Thomas Aquinas](#)
1631 S. 18th Street

[St. Veronica](#)
3521 N. 6th Street

[The DePaul Catholic School](#)
44 W. Logan Street