

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bob Hedding, Superintendent
610 N. Park Street
Stanberry, MO 64489

Letters to the Editors

Your Participation in the 2020 Census Is Critical for Our Children's Future

Teaching – much like everything else – looks different these days. As a school administrator with the Stanberry R-II School District, I know. While the classroom looks different, needs remain the same.

Now more than ever, we must work together and do what we can to make sure our children have the resources they need. That is why it is so critical to count *everyone* – especially our children – in the 2020 Census.

The census determines each state's representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and helps decision-makers in Washington, D.C., Jefferson City and our county/local government's determine how to allocate funds for programs that serve children – including those we are proud to teach – in Stanberry and other small towns across the nation.

Counting *everyone* in your household, including children, ensures they will be included in the 2020 Census. This is important because census statistics help determine funding for the next ten years for new schools and programs such as special education, teacher training, rural education, Head Start, and nutrition assistance. Your response helps shape the future of our children at school and beyond. Yet young children are among the populations historically undercounted in the census.

So please be sure to count all children in your household, including babies born on or before April 1, even if they were still in the hospital on that day. If we do not count *everyone* in our communities, especially our young children, our area could lose critical funding for programs including those that support education for the next decade.

Information about how to fill out the 2020 Census will arrive at your home soon if it has not already. I encourage you to respond promptly online, by phone or by mail. So far, 56.9% of the households in Gentry County have responded, but we need to count *everyone*. Help ensure that our community's children count, and that we are taking this important step to shape their future.

Sincerely,

Bob Hedding

Bob Hedding
Superintendent
Stanberry R-II School District