**Email from Superintendents to staff**

The MARE Association has approved the GotZoom Student Loan Debt Reduction Program as an endorsed service for our member schools and their families. Please review this information concerning your current federal student loan programs and the GotZoom student loan debt reduction program being offered.

GotZoom is a service that applies on your behalf for over 70 Federal Student Loan Repayment and Loan Forgiveness programs offered through the US Department of Education, with one simple registration. Please review the attached brochure for details.

This is not a refinance program. Refinancing a federal student loan with a private lender is a mistake for many borrowers. Refinancing with a private lender disqualifies someone from these federal programs. It is important that anyone looking for student loan debt relief be aware of this option before making this decision.

The recent passage of the **CARES Act** has provided numerous new benefits for holders of federal student loan debt and provided a unique opportunity for participants utilizing the GotZoom program.

**Payment Suspension:** Payments due on certain federal loans are suspended until September 30, 2020 for Direct Loans and FFEL loans owned by the DOE and not currently in default.  The borrower does not need to apply for forbearance. We recommend that all borrowers on auto-deduct who wish to cease payments during this period cancel their auto-deduction option with their servicer.

**Interest Waiver:** Interest is waived during the payment suspension period.

**PSLF & IDR Qualifying Payment Credit:** Any federal student loan payment skipped between now and September 30, 2020 ***will***count as a Qualifying Payment towards the required payment period for loan forgiveness. These payments will be included in the loan forgiveness amount at the end of the term.

If you use the GotZoom program to reduce your student loan debt, your first new lower payment will not begin until October and any payments due on your new loan prior to September 30, 2020 will be suspended and forgiven at the end of the new term if successfully completed.

**GotZoom:** These temporary benefits through the CARE Act provide a great opportunity for you to utilize the GotZoom services to reduce your student loan debt. During the enrollment process payments will be suspended, and after September 30 you will have a new reduced payment amount and a shorter term.

This program is being offered through Benefits 360, an employee benefits marketing group specializing in voluntary benefits. Representatives are available to answer questions and help you with the process. Contact them at gotzoom@benefits360llc.com, or call (855) 537-7377.