

April 17, 2020

DCPS Community,

I am writing to let you know that DC Public Schools (DCPS) will continue learning at home through the end of the school year, which is now Friday, May 29, 2020. The safety of our students, our families, and our city remains our priority as we continue navigating this public health emergency together. This morning, I joined Mayor Bowser as she made this announcement and reiterated that teaching and learning is expected to continue in the District.

We know that students and families have been deeply involved in learning at home and I want to remind everyone that your schools and teachers are here for you as we navigate this unprecedented time. **If you have not connected with your child's school since distance learning began, I encourage you to reach out and let them know how you're doing and what assistance or support you may need.**

We recognize that the closure of school buildings presents challenges for the DCPS community and that our families who typically rely on our schools for essential supports and services have been impacted by this transition. The school year provides a familiar structure for all of us — parents, educators, and students alike — and I know we are all trying to determine how to move forward with this new reality. We are working with our city and community partners to determine how to best support working families at this time and ensure that all students continue to have access to essential services. More details around how the school year will conclude, including information about grading, graduation, summer school, staffing, as well as the 2020-2021 academic calendar, is forthcoming. All updates will be communicated directly with families and [posted online](#) and on social media.

We are working hard to make sure that all students will continue to have access to rigorous and engaging learning experiences at home through the distribution of technology devices and hotspots, detailed learning plans for students at all grade levels on the [DCPS Canvas site](#), and the creation of video lessons on the DCPS [YouTube](#) channel and local cable TV. We also know that families are concerned about meeting their basic needs, and I encourage you to review the [resources available to our community](#), including information about free meals and groceries, rent and mortgage savings, and unemployment benefits.

We continue to work closely with Mayor Bowser, DC Health, and other city agencies and you can visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](#) for information on the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19). If you have additional questions, please email CEO.info@k12.dc.gov or call 202-442-5885.

As a parent and an educator, I know that this is an incredibly challenging time and I encourage you to lean on your family, friends, and neighbors for support. Our community values have become more evident and this commitment to each other is more important than ever. Although we may be physically distancing, we are seeing the ways that this challenge brings out the best of us as we come together to keep our community healthy and safe.

I want to conclude with appreciation and to applaud our families who are balancing so many responsibilities. Please know that we recognize every family is facing unique challenges and



circumstances and our top priority is your student's wellbeing. As we navigate this public health crisis, DCPS will be here with you every step of the way.

With appreciation,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor
DC Public Schools



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