

March 20, 2020

Dear DCPS Community,

I am writing today to share that DC Public Schools (DCPS) school buildings will remain closed and distance learning will take place through Friday, April 24. Classes will resume on Monday, April 27.

I want to thank our entire DCPS community for rising to this challenge as we navigate this public health emergency together. For the safety and well-being of our entire community, our students, educators, and families are making sacrifices and taking on new responsibilities. And together we will get through this.

Below are important updates based on the information that we have at this time. We will continue to provide information in the coming days and weeks as it becomes available. Additional answers to questions you may have can be found on our [Family and Community FAQ](#).

March 20 DCPS Updates

- **Distance Learning**
- **Assessments**
- **Grading**
- **Meals for All Students**

Distance Learning

Today, we are launching the DCPS Distance Learning portal — bit.ly/DCPS_ICP — a mobile-friendly website where you can find learning resources for every grade level and subject area from Pre-K3 through 8th grade and every graduation requirement from 9th through 12th grade. Watch a brief video on [how distance learning works](#).

On the “Learning” section of the [Distance Learning portal](#), you can find recommended routines for at-home learning, supports for English Learners, and accommodations for students who receive special education services. By exploring the “Family” section, you can get ideas about how to create a productive learning space, as well as physical and mental wellness resources.

If you have not received the printed copy of your student’s distance learning packet, please visit your school on Monday between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Due to the extended school closure timeline, we will have a second round of packet pick-up days on March 31 and April 1 at your school.

To help all families get affordable high-speed internet access at-home, Comcast is offering two-months of service, free, for new, qualifying Internet Essential customers. Learn more at <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19>.

I encourage you to join me for a **Twitter conversation on Wednesday, March 25 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** to discuss distance learning strategies and answer your questions about implementing distance learning at home. Share your questions and your family’s experiences on social media using #DCPSatHome and follow [@DCPSChancellor](#).

Assessments

Due to the extended school closure, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education plans to seek a one-year waiver from federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements around assessments and would cancel statewide summative assessments for students, including the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and DC Science.

In response to the rapidly evolving situation around coronavirus (COVID-19), the College Board is canceling the SAT and SAT Subject Test administration scheduled for May 2, 2020. The College Board will provide additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as possible in place of canceled tests.

Grading

Students are expected to complete their distance learning assignments and check in with teachers during virtual office hours. More details about Term 3 grades will be shared at a later date.

Meals for All Students

Meals will continue to be available for all students every weekday at locations throughout the city. Visit coronavirus.dc.gov/mealsites to find a meal site near you. These meal options are open to all young people under the age of 18. Please share this information with your friends, family, and neighbors, so that all young people have access to healthy meals during this period of school closure.

Beginning on Wednesday, April 1, meal service will be added to the following DCPS schools:

| School | Address | Ward |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Francis-Stevens Elementary School | 2425 N St. NW | Ward 2 |
| Hendley Elementary School | 425 Chesapeake St. SE | Ward 8 |
| Langdon Elementary School | 1900 Evarts St. NE | Ward 5 |
| Marie Reed Elementary School | 2201 18th St. NW | Ward 1 |
| Miner Elementary School | 601 15th St. NE | Ward 6 |
| Ron Brown High School | 4800 Meade St. NE | Ward 7 |
| Simon Elementary School | 401 Mississippi Ave. SE | Ward 8 |
| Thomson Elementary School | 1200 L St. NW | Ward 2 |
| Truesdell Education Campus | 800 Ingraham St. NW | Ward 4 |
| Wilson High School | 3950 Chesapeake St. NW | Ward 3 |

Thank You

To our families who are supporting our students during these unprecedented times, please know that we recognize that you are balancing extraordinary responsibilities. Please accept my deepest appreciation and know that our entire community is here to support you. I encourage you to review [resources available to both individuals and businesses](#) at this time.

To our educators and school staff who continue to create resources to support our students and perform essential school operations while also balancing the responsibilities of caring for their own families and wellbeing, thank you for your commitment and dedication.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

If you have additional questions, please email CEO.info@k12.dc.gov or call 202-442-5885. To learn more about the District's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

We can slow the spread of COVID-19 by [practicing appropriate social distancing](#) and respecting the guidance of our public health leaders. Thank you for your vigilance, your understanding and your patience.

With appreciation,

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