

DC Public Schools to Modify Schedule Through March

March 13, 2020

Dear DC Public Schools Students and Families:

On March 11, 2020, in order to provide additional coordination for the District's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Mayor Muriel Bowser declared both a state of emergency and a public health emergency. During this unprecedented public health emergency, DC Public Schools (DCPS) remains committed to ensuring the well-being of our students and school communities. Therefore, starting Monday, March 16 through Tuesday, March 31, DCPS will modify operations to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our region.

In our ongoing efforts to address community health risks and ensure the continuity of learning for our students, DCPS will follow an updated schedule between March 16 and March 31:

- **Monday, March 16** — Teachers and staff will report to school to plan for distance learning. No school for students.
- **Tuesday, March 17 to Monday, March 23** — DCPS will take its Spring Break for students and teachers. There will no longer be a Spring Break period in April.
- **Tuesday, March 24 to Tuesday, March 31** — Students will participate in distance learning.
- **Wednesday, April 1** — Schools will resume operations.

During this period, there will also be no school-sponsored activities such as athletics, extracurriculars, field trips, events, or afterschool programs.

We are grateful for the patience, flexibility, and cooperation our DCPS community is demonstrating as we manage the dynamic nature of this event. As we approach the next few weeks, we ask for continued patience and trust as the District navigates this unique situation.

While this decision was made to prioritize the health and safety of our entire school community, we understand it will be disruptive to our families. With that in mind, I want to share some additional details about what distance learning will look like for our DCPS students and the supports we have in place for families over the next few weeks.

About Distance Learning

DCPS prepared instructional contingency plans that will allow meaningful, relevant learning to take place while schools are closed. We developed resources for every level in grades PK-8 and each graduation requirement course for grades 9-12. Information about how to pick up printed copies of these lessons throughout the city or access them online will be shared in the coming days.

Free Meals for Kids

Due to the DCPS schedule change, meals will be available to students on weekdays from Monday, **March 16—Tuesday, March 31 from 10 am – 2 pm** at the following sites:

School Name	Address	Ward
Anacostia High School	1601 16th St. SE	(Ward 8)
Banneker High School	800 Euclid St. NW	(Ward 1)
Cardozo Education Campus	1200 Clifton St. NW	(Ward 1)
Columbia Heights Education Campus	3101 16th St NW	(Ward 1)
Coolidge High School	6315 5th St. NW	(Ward 4)
Jefferson Middle School	801 7th St. SW	(Ward 6)
Eastern High School	1700 East Capitol St. SE	(Ward 6)
Ballou High School	1700 East Capitol St. SE	(Ward 8)
McKinley Ed Campus	151 T St. NE	(Ward 5)
Brookland Middle School	1150 Michigan Ave. NE	(Ward 5)
Woodson High School	540 55th St. NE	(Ward 7)

DC Health Resources for Families

Many resources, including information about [how to protect yourself](#) and your family, are available on coronavirus.dc.gov. The symptoms that are currently being seen with coronavirus (COVID-19) are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you experience the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or have reason to believe you have been exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19), call your healthcare provider before visiting a healthcare facility.

You can also find FAQs for kids and families on coronavirus.dc.gov. During this period, we also encourage students and families to follow the DC Health recommendation to avoid large social gatherings.

With Gratitude and Thanks

We recognize the significant impact this extended closure will have on our entire community. Closing DCPS for two weeks due to a citywide health emergency mid-year is unprecedented. We acknowledge the anxiety this may cause our students, especially our seniors who are focused on graduation and those students who depend on DCPS for critical services. We also recognize the burden this will place on our staff and working families. As we learn more about what this extended closure means for the school year calendar, we will share that information with our school communities.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing commitment to making the safety of our students, staff, and school communities a priority. Regular updates will be shared with families via email and at <https://dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus> and <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>.

Sincerely,

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