



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

8 Bonair Street · Somerville, MA 02145-3246
mskipper@k12.somerville.ma.us · www.somerville.k12.ma.us
T 617-629-5200, x6005 · F 617-629-5611

March 12, 2020

Dear SPS Parents and Guardians:

As you know, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis has been rapidly evolving. We have been working with the Mayor's office and conferencing with local, state, and national health experts to fully understand the potential impact of this virus.

Given the latest information about the COVID-19 situation in Massachusetts and the alarming increase in cases in the Commonwealth and across the world, we have decided to close all schools and district offices for a minimum of an additional two weeks starting Monday. During this period we will assess whether the closure will continue longer. There is growing concern among health experts that not taking significant preventative measures now could lead to catastrophic results.

Working with local and state health officials, we will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation and will reassess in two weeks the best course of action for the remainder of the school year. That decision will be based on information we receive from health experts, but we want make you aware that the school closure could be longer than two weeks. The City will also be suspending all non-essential services for at least two weeks.

We recognize that this will present a significant challenge for families, and we are working diligently to finalize alternative delivery methods to minimize the impact to students' academic learning and to essential services that our families rely on. By early next week, we will share additional details about what those services and supports will look like for the coming weeks.

Again, we appreciate your understanding and support during this incredibly challenging time. Please look for additional information that we will share as it becomes available.

Thank you,

Carrie Normand, School Committee Chair
Mary Skipper, Superintendent