



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Mary E. Skipper, Superintendent

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

March 15, 2020

Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

In a press conference this evening Governor Baker announced the closing of all public and private schools for three weeks starting Tuesday, March 17th, in efforts to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. Today's announcement by Governor Baker will extend the school closure period through April 6, 2020. We will continue to be in touch with you regularly throughout this extended closure, with updates and resources.

We recognize that this is a challenging time, particularly for families with children. We have assembled a list of articles and other resources to help parents and guardians talk with their children about this health crisis. You can find those resources at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus.

As we noted in our earlier communication today, plans are in place to ensure that families in our district are able to continue accessing the services and resources they need. SPS students and families in need can pick up breakfast and lunch meals starting tomorrow, Monday, March 16, 9-11 a.m. at one of 3 school locations in the city – East Somerville Community School, Winter Hill Community Innovation School, and West Somerville Neighborhood School. If you are showing symptoms of illness, we ask that you please make alternate arrangements for someone to pick up your meals. We will also have staff and volunteers on hand assisting with distribution and ensuring that we are adhering to social distancing norms.

Please rest assured that we will continue to work diligently with our city partners and the community at large to keep you updated and provide our families and staff with the support you need through this incredibly challenging time. We are humbled by the outpouring of support from this wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent