



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

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Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

Thank you for your flexibility and support as we navigate our new, unexpected reality. We are continuing to learn about new resources to share, and look at ways to expand the resources we have put in place to support students and families.

Important SPS and Local Resources:

- High quality, age-appropriate, accessible grade-level resources are available to provide continuity of learning and help students stay engaged and connected during this extended school closure: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning. Please check back often, as we will continue to add new resources regularly.
- Yesterday, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and WGBH announced a partnership to supplement distance learning through television and digital platforms. Learn more about this coming resource at www.wgbh.org/foundation/wgbh-to-provide-prek-12-distance-learning-support-for-students-in-massachusetts. We will share additional information once it is available.
- For a list of resources and articles on how to talk to your kids about COVID-19, please visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus.
- Our grab-and-go breakfast & lunch meal program for families is going well. The program runs M-F, 9-11 a.m. (regardless of weather) at East Somerville Community School, Winter Hill Community Innovation School, and West Somerville Neighborhood School. No ID required and one person can pick up for the entire family. Please bring a bag if you are picking up for multiple family members or for someone who needs assistance.
- Families who receive Friday backpack bags will be receiving a phone call or email about picking up bags during this closure period. If you do not receive a call or email, please reach out to Meghan Bouchard at mbouchard@k12.somerville.ma.us.
- Visit www.somervillefoodsecurity.org for food pantry locations and hours. Website will note any restrictions such as requiring an ID or proof of Somerville residency.
- Starting March 17, the City of Somerville and Food for Free will run a supplemental food pantry. Call (781) 747-8198 to register. Deliveries reserved for those in quarantine or with limited mobility. Please limit use to once/week.
- Call 3-1-1 any time if you are concerned about food access, and they will connect you with the appropriate resource.
- School nurses and Principals have been and will continue to reach out to families for whom school nurses are holding medications.
- Learn about free 2-month internet service for families in need through Comcast Internet Essentials: <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19?fbclid=IwAR14yMNHVYitrLe6z722Nlt9baZ90dFpKnU9UUFj8SITCye16cd-gbyukWw>.

Other Important Information:

- Call the Massachusetts 211 hotline from a cellphone or landline for real-time COVID-19 updates and referrals including prevention, treatment information; information about testing; and guidance for

people returning from travel. Service is available 24 hours a day and information is available in multiple languages. Service can also be accessed at <https://mass211.org/>.

- For national updates and travel restrictions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- For frequent local and state updates: www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus.

We will continue to keep you informed as we build and learn about more resources and services. Thank you for your strength and partnership through this crisis.

Sincerely,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent