



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

Mary E. Skipper, *Superintendent*

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Dear Somerville Public Schools Families and Staff,

We hope you are doing well as we wrap up the first week of the extended school closure. Our meal service continues to go well, and the first day of Chromebook distributions was busy. We will continue to distribute Chromebooks to families who have internet service but no device. See below for additional information on the Meal and Chromebook distribution programs, as well as continued reminders of additional services.

Chromebooks Distribution for Families without a Device

Distribution of Chromebooks to families with students in grades 3 and higher who have internet access but have no device at home **and** who did not pick one up today will continue tomorrow. We have a limited number of Chromebooks available and ask that only families with internet service who do not have a device at home come pick one up. One device per family, please. Chromebooks can be picked up 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. tomorrow at any of the following locations:

- East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)
- West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

If you are having trouble with your device, please submit a request for support using this [Somerville Public Schools Remote Tech Support Contact Form](#).

Packets of resources and materials have been mailed to families who do not have internet access at home, to ensure that their students can stay engaged and connected during the extended closure.

Helping Students Stay Connected to their Learning during Unexpected School Closure

We want to provide some clarity and help relieve any anxiety that families may be experiencing regarding activities and home learning opportunities for students during this school closure period. Assignments and activities that are being provided by our teachers or which are part of our [Home Learning Resources](#) website are intended to provide students with ways to stay engaged in their learning while at home. These activities will not be graded or have credit assigned as they cannot and do not replace class time or school days, as per DESE guidelines. We hope that students and families will find the resources and activities helpful as they navigate through this unexpected and lengthy school closure period.

Grab-and-Go Meal Distribution Expanding to Additional School Site Starting Monday, March 23rd

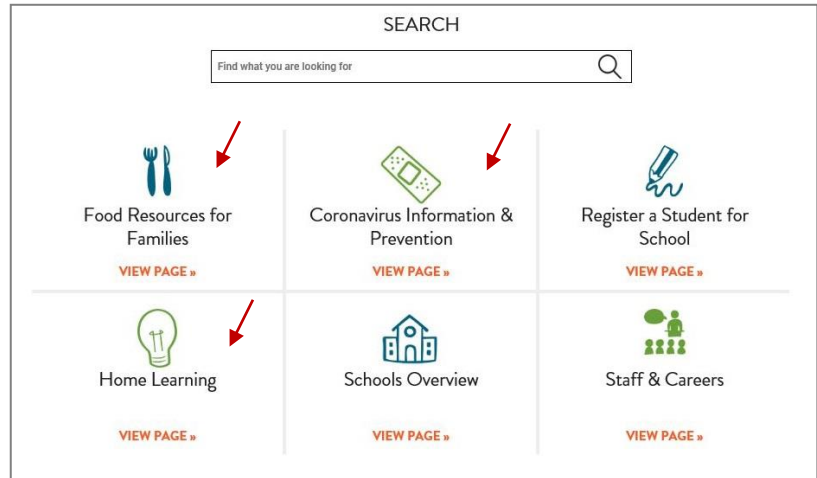
Starting Monday, March 23rd, we will be adding the Healey School as a Grab-and-Go meal distribution site. The meal program will run regardless of weather. SPS students and families can pick up food at any site. No ID is required, and one person can pick up for more than one member of the family. Please bring a bag if you are picking up for multiple family members. Weekend groceries are also available on Friday. Breakfast and lunch meals are available Monday-Friday, 9-11 a.m. at the following school sites:

- East Somerville Community School
- West Somerville Neighborhood School
- Winter Hill Community Innovation School
- Healey School (*starting Monday, March 23, 2020*)

For additional food resources, visit: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/food-nutrition-services/food-resources-students-and-families>.

Reorganized District Home Page

We have reorganized our district home page to make current pertinent information more easily accessible. Here is a screen shot of where you can easily find links to the new resource pages.



Other Important Resources & Information

- A growing list of high quality, accessible grade-level home learning resources to help students stay engaged and connected are available at: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning.
- Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus for a growing list of resources on how to talk to your kids about COVID-19.
- Call 311 to be connected to other food resources in the Somerville area.
- Call the Massachusetts 211 hotline from a cellphone or landline for real-time COVID-19 updates and referrals. Service available 24 hours a day and information is available in multiple languages. Can also be accessed at <https://mass211.org/>.
- National updates and latest information on travel restrictions available at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.
- For frequent local and state updates, visit: www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus.
- All Coronavirus-related communications from the District are being posted at: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/coronavirus-information-prevention.

Thank you for your flexibility in adjusting to the unexpected changes. We will continue to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent