



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

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Dear SPS Families and Staff,

One of the most significant challenges of this global pandemic is the sudden and severe financial impact on many families. If your financial situation has changed and your child was not receiving free or reduced lunch prior to the schools closure, we encourage you to apply now, as it may open up additional resources for your family. Please see information and links below on how to apply for free/reduced lunch.

As we continue to follow social distancing norms in our community and do all we can to minimize the impact of COVID-19, it's important to take time to focus on our mental health and wellbeing. You will find a comprehensive list of ideas and resources to support you in these efforts on the Somerville website: <https://www.somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp/mental-health-and-wellbeing>.

NEW/UPDATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Free/Reduced Lunch Application: Qualifying for free/reduced lunch may open up additional resources for your family, such as eligibility for P-EBT benefits. All students attending schools designated as CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) do not need to complete a lunch application and already receive free lunch. These students are also automatically eligible for the P-EBT federal benefits offered to help alleviate the financial burden on families caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Somerville High School, Healey School, Next Wave/Full Circle, Winter Hill Community Innovation School, and East Somerville Community School are all CEP-designated schools in our district. If your student attends another school in our district and you believe your financial situation might now make you eligible for free/reduced lunch, you can apply online [HERE](#) or by completing and returning the attached application.

Somerville SEPAC Meeting Reminder: The Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) invites you to their first remote SEPAC meeting on Monday, May 18, 8:00-8:45pm. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with other Somerville parents of students with special needs, and meet your new SEPAC officers. A presentation by Massachusetts Advocates for Children, *Special Education during the Coronavirus Era*, and Q&A will follow. Please register [HERE](#). You will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join.

Today's Shout-Out: For a creative writing assignment, Somerville High School senior Erin Gustus wrote a poem about the coronavirus pandemic which was published in Somerville Wicked Local. You can read the poem at: <https://somerville.wickedlocal.com/news/20200414/somerville-high-student-writes-in-about-coronavirus-and-losing-her-senior-year>.

Just for Fun: Students in 5th through 12th grades are welcome to submit original writing for the 2020 American Ancestors Young Historians Essay Contest (<https://mayflower.americanancestors.org/essay-contest>). The topic is how the 400-year-old history of the *Mayflower*'s landing in Plymouth, MA relates to students today. There is no fee to submit; cash prizes are available. Submission deadline is June 10, 2020. For more fun and interactive activities, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/JustforFun.

LIST OF RESOURCES, CONTINUING PROGRAMS AND IMPORTANT LINKS

[Curriculum Resources and Tech Support Available Online](#)

- High quality grade-level home learning resources from multiple sources: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/home-learning
- If you are having trouble with your device, please submit a request for support using this [Somerville Public Schools Remote Tech Support Contact Form](#).
- Language Support for Technology Questions: SPS parents/students who need language assistance with technology should call 311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov. A bilingual educator will contact you to assist you. Dial (617) 666-3311 if you are calling from a number outside of Somerville.
- SPS Remote Learning Plan can be accessed at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/RemoteLearning

Continuing Programs and Resources

- ***Student Instruments Pickup Schedule:*** Pickup of student instruments is continuing on the following schedule. We will be observing social distancing measures during this instrument pickup process and ask that you please ensure you follow the city's mandatory face covering order.
 - Kennedy School – Tuesday, May 12th, 11:00am-noon
 - Winter Hill Community Innovation School – Wednesday, May 13th, 11:00am-noon
 - West Somerville Neighborhood School – Wednesday, May 13th, 1:00-2:00pm
- ***Breakfast and Lunch Grab-and-Go Meals*** Mondays-Fridays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the East Somerville, Healey, West Somerville, and Winter Hill schools. No ID required. Bring a bag if you are picking up for multiple family members.
- ***Other food-related resources in the city,*** visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/food-resources.
- ***Distribution of Diapers:*** Distribution of free diapers to families with babies or young children will continue on **Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00a.m.** at each of the four school food distribution sites, through June and while supplies last.
- ***Comcast Internet Essentials:*** We want to remind families that Comcast is offering two months of free internet service to families in need, through their Internet Essentials program. ***If you qualify for the school free/reduced lunch program, you are eligible for this important service.*** Information on how to apply and sign up for Internet Essentials from Comcast is available at: <https://internetessentials.com/>

Other Important Links & Information

- Visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus for the most current information on COVID-19 and resources available in our community.
- Talking to your kids about COVID-19: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/TalkingAboutCoronavirus.
- List of basic supports for families during COVID-19: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/relief-our-families>

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent