

### **The School Committees Report: Response to COVID-19**

The Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees would like to express our utmost, heartfelt thanks to the administration, teachers, and all employees of our school districts for their courageous and dedicated leadership as we face the challenges and uncertainty posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is in times of uncertainty that we truly need strong leadership. It is also these times that test that leadership. We are incredibly grateful that the leadership of the Concord and Concord-Carlisle schools has not only stood up to that test, but has surpassed any bar we could have set. They have stepped up as leaders in our towns and are paving the way in providing guidance and support not only for school families but for other members of the community as well.

Similarly, the teachers and staff have gone above and beyond what could be expected during these trying times. The remarkably swift creation and launch of virtual engagement opportunities for students to both maintain skills and provide students and families with a sense of continued engagement and community has been nothing short of extraordinary. The teachers' outreach to students provides them with a sense of connection that is critical during a time like this, and the efforts of all employees to stay connected and be ready to step in wherever needed are invaluable. All said, we are in awe of the significant work going on throughout the districts to ensure that our students' needs will be addressed in the long-term and that our buildings will be clean and ready for us when we can finally return to them.

We are incredibly grateful for the strength, dedication, thought, and care that our district administrators, teachers, and employees are showing during this challenging time.

With wishes for health and safety to all,  
The Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees

### **Virtual School Work**

Both Concord Public Schools (CPS) and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District (CCRS) are providing all PreK-grade 12 students with virtual curriculum activities. Activities do not replicate a school day but are crafted to provide students with grade appropriate schoolwork, to maintain some structure in their day and, to offer connection and continuity, which will prepare them for an eventual return to school.

Teachers share the activities via emails or Google Classroom with parents of preschool and elementary school students while Concord Middle School and CCHS receive assignments from the teacher of each class on the appropriate day. There are on-going efforts to maintain communication loops to keep students and teachers connected. School site leaders are working with families that do not have access to technology by connecting them with appropriate community agencies to address each individual situation.

Guidelines for the activities include review of critical concepts, enhancing knowledge of previously taught content and skill building. There is a limit of 20 minutes per subject in one day, no formal assessments will occur and all students are encouraged to read for pleasure for at least 30 minutes per day.

### **Special Education**

The Districts' Director of Student Services, Ruth Grube, is working closely with the special education staff and personnel from the State's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to understand what processes will be implemented regarding Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and the special education progress.

Guidelines that Concord Public School and Concord Carlisle Regional School will follow during the school closure can be found at <https://www.concordps.org/special-education-school-closure/>

### **Continued Mental Health Support and Resources**

School site leaders and counselors understand this situation can create additional stress for students so they will continue to provide students with appropriate supports. If additional support is required, parents and guardians can utilize a comprehensive list of mental health contacts and resources on the District web site, <https://www.concordps.org/superintendent/mental-health/>.

### **Food Assistance**

The Districts provide bagged breakfasts and lunches for anyone in need during the school closures between 8:30-11am, Monday through Friday. Food donations cannot be accepted but financial contributions are welcome; interested individuals can visit the District's food service web site at <https://www.concordps.org/food-and-nutrition-services/>

### **All Other Assistance**

If any family is in need of other assistance beyond the food services or these mental health supports, please contact either Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie Hunter at [lhunter@concordps.org](mailto:lhunter@concordps.org) or reach out to the building principals. All contacts are confidential.

### **Sign up for School Committee News**

Individuals who are interested in knowing more about the role of the School Committees as well as receiving the latest updates on school budgets and informational events are encouraged to enroll in the "School Committee News" Subscriber List. These updates will include timely information such as meeting dates and agendas, minutes, event announcements, and the School Committee Report. Individuals can sign up at [www.concordps.org/school\\_committee\\_subscriber\\_list](http://www.concordps.org/school_committee_subscriber_list)

**The School Committees Contact Information** You can link to the School Committees' emails on the Districts' home page at [www.concordps.org](http://www.concordps.org). Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at [concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto:concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org) and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at [concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto:concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org). You can reach out to the Superintendent and the School Committees through the Your Voice Matters link on the Districts' home page. Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up for the School Committees subscriber's list which is also on the District's web page.