



March 16, 2020

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued patience in these unprecedented times. Yesterday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a three-week suspension of school operations for educational purposes at all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth beginning Tuesday, March 17, and a series of new guidance and legislation in response to COVID-19. These steps are meant to protect the health and safety of our community and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

What does this mean for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District community?

We are actively working to “Keep Learning Alive” while school is not in session. You will be receiving suggested enrichment resources from me, building principals, teachers and special education staff throughout this week. These resources are meant to supplement the learning environment for students and will not be graded or assessed.

All schools are closed, and there will be no public access to our 6 school buildings starting Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to call into the main office or email your building principal if you have specific questions or concerns, and they will get back to you in a timely fashion. School offices, though not open to the public, will be staffed so families can call in over the next few weeks with any questions they may have. At no time, will students be allowed in buildings to retrieve personal items.

\*Exceptions to school building closure:

High School will be open for Grab n Go meals from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (M-F) Gym Foyer near PAC and for Chromebook sign outs from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (M-F) Gym Foyer near PAC

This Friday 3/20 – All school building clinics will be open from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to pick up your child’s medications, if needed.

Custodial and maintenance staff has been working very diligently to clean and sanitize our buildings. During this closure all school building will be deep cleaned by our professional cleaning company. All student lockers will be opened, sanitized and any perishable goods will be removed.

The Registrar’s Office is currently closed until further notice. There will be no walk-in registrations. Families may continue to apply on line at [Online Registration Link](#)

All Driver Education classes and driving hours are now cancelled until further notice.

MCAS is still proceeding even though we are out of school during the scheduling window. DESE is appealing to the legislature for relief to state testing.

Special Education students will receive information from the Student Services Department shortly.

Regardless of how many days we are out, the final day for school will be Friday, June 19, 2020. As of today, there are no plans to alter April Vacation. This may change depending on what happens in the future.

I would ask that you carefully consider the practice of social distancing. Non-exposure to the virus is the best way not to get sick. Please refer to this CDC webpage for continued updates recommendations so we

can all do our part to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 at [CDC Website](#). Here is another informative site at [Social Distancing-This is not a snow day](#).

There are still many questions out there. Is there an 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip? What about scheduled elementary field trips? Is there going to be a junior and senior prom? Spring sports? Is the graduation date going to be changed? Please be patient and when accurate information becomes available, I will deliver it to the W-H community.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward in an unprecedented time.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Szymaniak  
Superintendent of Schools  
Whitman-Hanson Regional School District  
@WH\_Super