



We make a difference in Enfield - every child, every day.

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Dear Parents, Staff, and Students of the Enfield Public Schools,

As you may have heard by now, it is with great regret I have to inform you that Governor Lamont has ordered all Connecticut schools to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Back on March 12th, when we closed schools indefinitely, we did so with the belief we would eventually return. To be completely honest, all of the information we were given at the time led us to believe our closure would be fourteen days long, at the most. We never could have imagined we would be at this point where schools are closed for the rest of the year, and we understand the disappointment all of you have, as everyone in the district shares your feelings of sadness with this decision.

We all realize the additional anxiety this closure causes for families, students, and staff. We want you to know that district staff is committed to continue working tirelessly to make this unprecedented closure as easy as possible for students and families. As recently communicated, we will continue to enhance our distance learning program to better meet the needs of our students and families. This is new to all of us, and we will continue to improve each day. We've been working over the past few weeks to make sure any family without an electronic device has one, and we will continue our plan to get devices to those who need it. We also want to assure parents we realize the challenges that come with your children working from home during the hours of 9:00-3:00, including trying to balance telecommuting yourself, while managing the daily stress of your family's needs during this public health crisis. The district will continue to be flexible in our expectations for what students need to do, and specific instructions will come from your child's school on how to best manage this otherwise impossible task.

Our hearts go out to our seniors who have worked their entire academic lives for the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of recognition they so richly deserve. Although nothing is definite at this time, we are currently working on options to provide an alternative graduation ceremony or event so our seniors can have some form of the celebration they have earned. Ms. Clark and I have been meeting with members of the senior class to solicit their input on what would make the disappointment of their typical graduation being canceled or postponed more enjoyable for all of them. As we have more details, we will communicate them with everyone.

We realize how disappointing this news is. As I said, everyone in the Enfield Public Schools is equally heartbroken that we cannot return to school this year. As you've all heard from your individual schools and teachers, we miss seeing your children and being together. We are all looking forward to the day when we can return. Until then, please stay safe, and take care of yourselves and your family.

Thank you - and stay well,

Christopher J. Drezek

Superintendent of Schools