



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

Christopher Drezek; Superintendent of Schools; cdrezek@enfieldschools.org

1010 Enfield Street • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

TEL: 860.253.6533 • FAX: 860.253.6515 • WWW.ENFIELDSCHOOLS.ORG

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

As you may have heard by now, Governor Lamont has extended all Connecticut schools to remain closed for an additional month, bringing our closure to May 20th. We all realize the additional anxiety this extension 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.

In the coming days, we will be sending home information and instructions on how we will continue to enhance our distance learning program to better meet the needs of our students and families. Our process will look a little different than it has thus far; we will move to a more virtual platform, as it has become necessary to limit in-person contact for everyone's safety. Please understand the packets we started with were designed for a short-term school closure, but now that this has been extended, we need to adjust how we deliver instruction to our students. We recognize that not every family has a device for students to engage in digital learning. We will be working over the coming days to identify those families in need of a device, and we will communicate a plan to get devices to those who need it. We also want to assure parents we realize the challenges that come with having your children work 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.

We also know there are many questions with regards to grading, graduation requirements, and grade promotion. We have been waiting for guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education on what would be permissible during these extraordinary times and just received that guidance on how to proceed. The recommendation from the state is that districts enact a form of a pass/fail model for this year, remain flexible in regards to promoting students, and loosen graduation requirements for seniors. We will be meeting over the coming days to finalize our plans in these areas, and we will ask each school to provide updates to their families and staff on how we will proceed with these directions.

We realize how challenging these times are. As you've all heard from your individual schools and teachers, we miss seeing your children and being together. As difficult as this is, we cannot lose sight of what is most important at this time. The health and well-being of everyone is still our most important priority, and we implore everyone to take measures to keep you and your family healthy. Please adhere to the guidelines we've been given. Practice social distancing, stay home if you can, and continue to practice good personal hygiene. During these dark times, please remember this: we will get through this. We could not be more confident that once this cloud is lifted, we will come out of this stronger than ever. My confidence is evident in what I've seen thus far. Our entire community coming together to help one another, our staff going above and beyond to create as much normalcy for our kids as possible, and our compassion for our neighbors and friends will be what we remember when this is all over. Please do not forget we are all in this together, and if we remain united, we will be better for it.

We realize this is a lot to take in, especially the day before we leave for April break. We ask that all of you do the best you can over the next week to enjoy the break, unplug if you can, and take this time to unwind and enjoy your loved ones. Everyone deserves to take a break from this craziness, and we hope you will all use this time to take care of yourselves.

Thank you - and stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Drezek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "D".

Christopher J. Drezek

Superintendent of Schools