



# Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

978-264-4700

[www.abschools.org](http://www.abschools.org)

**Peter J. Light**

Superintendent of Schools

April 1, 2020

ABRSD Families,

I hope your family is well. Over the last week, our district has been working to update our education plan to provide greater educational opportunities to our students during this closure. I will be sharing that plan with you later today and it will begin next week. In the meantime, I wanted to provide some closure-related pieces of information that are not directly related to the education plan.

### **Commissioner's Letter to Families**

Jeffrey Riley, Commission of Education for Massachusetts has requested that we share his letter to families. The complete letter, which can be translated into multiple languages, can be found on the DESE website at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>

### **Zoom "Bombing"**

You may have seen recent news reports of "Zoom Bombing" where someone from outside of a group gets into a zoom conference and shares inappropriate or hateful languages or images. With this increase in video conferencing by schools, this has become an issue for a number of districts.

We take student online safety with the utmost importance and have taken additional steps to ensure the most secure virtual environment for our students.

- ABRSD has an Educational Subscription to Zoom, which differs from their public platform
- Zoom for Education is FERPA, COPPA, and HIPPA Compliant
- ABRSD authenticates users to our domain (abschools.org) for classrooms grade 3 and above so that only students and teachers can be in a zoom classroom together.
- For students below grade 3 where parents often log in to Zoom for their child, ABRSD can add password protection to the Zoom Meeting in order to secure these meetings.
- Please note we use a different process for public meetings which require open access for members of our community.

### **Important Information about Video and Audio Conferencing**

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District is dedicated to providing engaging and effective remote learning opportunities for our students. As part of our remote learning opportunities, the district has and will continue to expand our use of virtual platforms for video and audio conferencing. As we increase these virtual

*To develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships.*

WELLNESS



EQUITY



ENGAGEMENT

opportunities, we also want to clarify expectations around appropriate use of video and audio technologies for educational opportunities:

The District strictly prohibits screenshots, pictures, audio/video recording and distribution of any virtual educational experience in order to protect student privacy, proactively prevent potential cyberbullying, prevent the distribution of copyrighted materials and comply with Massachusetts law. Please note that in Massachusetts, it is a crime to record another person through any medium without his or her knowledge. It is important for us to take a firm stand against any reproduction of our virtual conferences to protect the privacy rights of all students and staff.

Students, and where appropriate parents/guardians, agree to engage in virtual educational experiences in a quiet, private area to the extent practicable given the circumstances, in order to minimize background noise and distractions and to protect the integrity of student engagement as well as student confidentiality. Parents/guardians and other household members who normally are not privy to day-to-day classroom and group service discussions agree to respect and keep confidential any personal or private information (e.g. disability status) inadvertently discovered about other students due to proximity to virtual education.

As a reminder, the district's Acceptable Use Policy applies to virtual learning, including school-issued devices and networks. See: [Policy INJD Empowered Digital Use](#)

### **Internet Safety on School-issued Chromebooks**

We use web filtering tools on the students' ChromeBooks that were sent home to families last week. These tools are very similar to the web filtering tools Acton-Boxborough already utilizes to keep your children safe while they are online at school. This web filtering will help protect students against harmful and inappropriate online material while kids are using our devices at home. The service operates on our school's managed G Suite for Education Chrome accounts (ABSchools) and works when students are logged into their ChromeBooks.

While this service will help keep our students safe when online, we encourage you to discuss and reinforce with your child rules for appropriate internet usage and lessons of digital citizenship and safety. If your child finds themselves blocked from a site they need, please request access from your child's teacher.