



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720
978-264-4700
www.abschools.org

Peter J. Light
Superintendent of Schools

April 9, 2020

ABRSD Families,

I hope your family continues to be well. As we wind up our week, I wanted to provide you with some updates from our district.

April Vacation Update

Today, our school committee voted to cancel the April Vacation scheduled from April 20-24 in order to provide greater educational continuity during our shutdown. When we surveyed families and educators, over 80% of each group were in favor of this change to the calendar. Monday, April 20 is Patriot's Day, and we will be closed for this state holiday. We will resume distance learning activities beginning Tuesday, April 21 and follow our published schedule for the week. We understand there may be some conflicts for students during this week, and as we are doing throughout the closure, we will look at student engagement flexibly during the week.

Because of this change, our last day of school is now **Wednesday, June 17th**. I am also working with Principal Dorey at the high school to determine some alternate plans for our seniors. If you have a senior, please reassure them that we understand this change to the calendar may negatively impact them, and we are looking at alternatives to provide flexibility for this group at the end of their year.

Family Webinars Scheduled for 4/13

Based on the high interest levels in our previous family webinar, we have scheduled an additional opportunity for families to hear updates from the district and ask questions about district-wide activities surrounding the closure. In order to provide access for all interested families and to answer as many questions as possible that are on people's minds, we have scheduled two sessions for Monday, April 13:

PK-6 Families: Monday, April 13; 6:30-7:15 p.m. Zoom Link: <https://abschools.zoom.us/j/727908626>

7-12 Families: Monday, April 13; 7:30-8:15 p.m. Zoom Link: <https://abschools.zoom.us/j/887259841>

Distance Learning Digital Resources for Families

We have launched a new site devoted to providing families with resources to learn and navigate our most used digital platforms at home. The site can be access directly at

<https://sites.google.com/abschools.org/abschoolfromhome/home>

Or from the homepage of our [Distance Learning Website](#).

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District Offices Closed for Business 4/10-4/12

As a reminder, our (virtual) offices and schools are closed tomorrow, April 10 and there are no education activities planned. I have asked all of our educators and leaders to take a break over the long weekend. I have been seeing a significant increase in stress among our educators and leaders in the past few weeks, and want to make sure that the work we are doing can be sustained over the course of our closure. Because of this, you may experience a delay in receiving a response to emails sent over the weekend, but please know that when we resume activity next week, we will be able to respond to questions. Thank you for your understanding and help in providing our educators a break.

Food Availability

Bag lunches are available Monday-Friday* for pickup at the ABRHS front circle off of Charter Road from 11:30-1:00. You do not need to have a student attending school to pick up lunch. Delivery options are also available through our local Neighbor Brigade at 1-855-241-HELP(4357).

Mental Health Resources

In the midst of this international crisis, parents worldwide are managing more at home than ever before. While caregivers work remotely from home as schools and workplaces are closed, it has become a daily struggle for many to keep kids occupied and healthy. We have updated our [AB Wellness website](#) with a number of resources to support families to cope during this unpredictable time.

Some of our favorite resources come from the [Child Mind Institute](#), which has curated an incredible collection of daily tips and strategies to help kids and families cope during the crisis in such areas as self-care, behavior management, and anxiety. In addition, they offer two Facebook Live video chats with expert clinicians, remote evaluations and telemedicine, and phone consultations to manage kids at home.

If there is a mental health emergency, families should call 911 or go to an emergency room. Other resources to call for mental health support include:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- Call2Talk: 1-508-532-2255 or Text C2T to 741741
- Samariteens: 800-252-TEEN (8336)

US Census Underway

Our state department of education has asked that we share the following with you:

*With the recent developments surrounding virtual classes, there are still important functions we must attend to which include being counted in the 2020 Census. This mandatory headcount happens once every decade and **every person in the Commonwealth must be counted in their community.***

This count is vital as it determines federal and state funding, which go to services that we rely upon every single day including education, public health, public transportation, and services that will benefit our children for the next

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10 years. As such, having an accurate count is critical for our community and we do not want any of our services to be shortchanged.

We want to stress the importance that every person in your household be counted, including newborns and the very young. The funding for services will benefit them as they develop and grow and a response is crucial to an accurate count. The next opportunity to secure more funding for these services will be another decade from now. We also want to note that this information is **completely confidential and your information is never shared with any other agency.**

Please respond as soon as possible and be counted—it's quick and easy. You can respond online at my2020census.gov. If you have additional questions or need language support to respond over the phone, please visit 2020census.gov.

It only takes a few minutes to complete but will have a great impact on our lives. Thank you for ensuring an accurate count for our community and for your children.

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