

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Good afternoon West Side!!

I wanted to update you on what is transpiring regarding planning at both the local and state level.

State Level:

The Governor submitted a bill to the legislature today which provides the Commissioner of Education the ability to waive certain statutory requirements.

The bill can be found in the attachment here:

- 1) Proposes to allow Commissioner to extend the Student Opportunity Act funding application (SOA) filing deadline for districts.
- 2) Proposes to allow Commissioner to waive MCAS HS Competency Determination (CD) requirement for seniors.
- 3) Proposes to allow Commissioner to waive all other MCAS requirements.
- 4) Allows Regional school districts- suspend statutory- required vote and allow DESE to certify an amount sufficient for the operation of the district until a budget can be adopted.
- 5) Allows for districts to use retirees beyond 960 hours

Today, the Education Commissioner has convened superintendent round tables to discuss how the state and local districts would deal with educating students remotely should the school closure be extended.

Local Level:

Yesterday, I convened a meeting with our Administrative Team and instructed the building principals to begin/continue to hold grade level or content specific virtual meetings for the purpose of gathering voice from the teachers on what virtual or extended learning might look like at each level. The goal is to focus on standards not yet taught with the understanding that should we need to go this route, replicating the day to day classroom will not be realized.

There is a lot to think through but I wanted you to know we are on it and will continue to keep you up to speed. I believe everyone is hoping we will not need these plans but if so we are ready. Parents with a student(s) who have a 504 plan or an Individual Education Plan should know that Commissioner Riley and Senior Associate Commissioner for Special Education, Russell Johnston are developing guidance for school districts.

Meal Program:

Our meal program under the direction of Mr. Nario Dardi has been amazing. Even as amazing as Dario is, his cafeteria workers are absolute ROCK STARS. Each day, they create and distribute over 1000 meals to our community. I can't thank them enough, the best!!

I would continue to ask for your patience as we figure out these uncharted waters.

Stay safe, keep smiling, breathe, and I will continue to update you on any and all information.



DSines
@dhs0726

We got this! 🙌 #homeschooling

**Now that school is closed
for a while, my kids will
be taking:**

- **AP chores**
- **Honors yard work**
- **Dishwashing 101**
- **AP Trash disposal**
- **Home Economics aka
Make your own lunch**
- **Honors laundry**

We got this!

Tim Connor
Interim Superintendent