



March 26, 2020

Coronavirus Update

Good afternoon Everett Public School Families,

Everett Public Schools remains committed to providing your child learning supports and engagement during these challenging times. We are keeping students and families at the center of our efforts by planning for learning and staying connected to you.

Thanks to the generosity of our voters that passed the 2016 technology levy, for the past several years our district has invested in getting devices in the hands of students and in training teachers how to best teach in the digital environment.

Since school closures began March 16, we launched learning resources and explored ways to connect with students and families. We continue to prepare educational materials, build out a [Student Engagement Materials Overview](#) on our website, and offer educators learning opportunities to better serve the needs of our students remotely.

Our next phase of student engagement and learning support development will include delivering flexible instruction using technology. In addition to posting content on teachers' webpages (or other platforms like Google Classroom or Canvas), teachers will be checking students' work, providing feedback, and collaborating with students and families using digital tools (like Zoom conferencing). While there will be exchanges of academic work between teachers and students with feedback, please know the emphasis will not be on letter grading at this time. Again, the goal is to provide meaningful feedback on work submitted by students.

You can expect educators to engage your student(s) in a learning range, by:

- Building out learning resources and standards-based content
- Developing a suggested weekly plan and schedule
- Providing content platform(s) like teacher websites, Google Classroom, Canvas, etc.
- Using tools like email, phone calls, Zoom conferencing, Google Classroom, or Canvas to collaborate
- Providing feedback on work submitted

With schools closed at least through April 24, our goal is to support all learners. We understand there are challenges associated with teaching and learning in this environment, and that shift will not happen immediately. We appreciate the opportunity to move thoughtfully together with you toward better leveraging our technology tools in serving our students.

For the Class of 2020 (current seniors): With guidance from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Board of Education, we are developing a plan to address seniors in the Class of 2020 as a select group of students who may have specific needs to meet graduation and college-entrance deadlines.

For families of students receiving Special Services: The Special Services department will also be publishing complementary guidelines to the strategies mentioned above.

Teachers calling your child(ren): It is likely when a teacher calls to talk to you or your child, the number will appear as blocked, or private. Please consider answering these calls, or check your voicemail afterwards, as the call won't be from a school district number when staff are working from home.

Do you have questions?

- For technology support: help is available on our [technology](#) web page.
- For instructional questions: please contact your child's teacher.
- For other COVID-19 school related questions, visit our [FAQ page](#). If your question is not answered there, you can [submit a question](#) for the school district and we will respond within one working day.

Thank you and be well,

Dr. Ian Saltzman
Everett Public Schools Superintendent