

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 307 | Washington, DC 20004

DME Bulletin – COVID-19

April 15, 2020

Mayor's Order Extended to May 15

Today Mayor Bowser announced the extension of the Mayor's Order until at least May 15, to include all nonessential businesses and public schools. Additional information on the academic calendar is expected on Friday. You can watch the Mayor's press briefing [HERE](#).

Emancipation Day Schedule

On Thursday, April 16, 2020, the District Government will observe Emancipation Day. Emancipation Day is a holiday that marks the anniversary of the signing of the Compensated Emancipation Act. The act, which President Lincoln signed on April 16, 1862, freed more than 3,000 slaves in the District of Columbia. While some services will be affected, many District employees will continue serving to maintain essential District operations. More information is available [HERE](#).

Mayor Bowser Launches Grocery Sites at DC Schools, Available to All Families

Mayor Muriel Bowser launched 10 weekday grocery distribution sites at District schools to help families access meals and other resources during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. The sites are available to all families and are open Monday – Friday, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Residents can pick up pre-packed grocery bags, which include fresh produce and dry goods. Groceries are being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. A complete list of food resources available for residents is available [HERE](#).

Mayor Bowser's press release on the Grocery Sites is available [HERE](#).

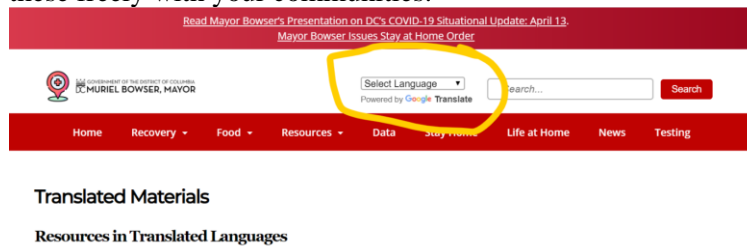
Archive this Moment DC with DC Public Library

The DC Public Library's Special Collections Department houses resources and materials that focus on D.C. history dating back to the late 18th Century. A huge part of this collection is the photos, notes and everyday observations from Washingtonians. As we practice social distancing, the Library is collecting images and content from social media and through email that captures what people are thinking, feeling and doing. The goal is to create a collection that allows people who will research this time in our city's history to know what we experienced.


Images and content are being collected on Twitter and Instagram, using the hashtag #archivethismomentdc. Residents can also e-mail pictures to wash.dcpl@dc.gov.

Translated Resources

There are translated resources available on coronavirus.dc.gov. Languages available include Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese. In addition to these translated resources, the entire website can be translated using the Google widget located at the top of the page. Please feel free to share these freely with your communities.



Read Mayor Bowser's Presentation on DC's COVID-19 Situational Update: April 13
Mayor Bowser Issues Stay at Home Order

 GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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Resources for Immigrant Families

Based on questions received from immigrant families, the Deputy Mayor of Education's English Learner Working Group has compiled key resources specifically for immigrant families:

- [April 2020 DCPS English Learner Family Resources Newsletter](#), an easy-to-share newsletter full of information for immigrant families
- Family distance learning resources from OSSE in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Amharic](#), [French](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Korean](#), and [Chinese](#)

LEA Survey on Language Access Needs

The Deputy Mayor of Education's English Learner Working Group has set as its first priority "to ensure schools maintain contact and communicate effectively with multilingual students and families, including providing language access." To best address this priority, we need to first understand the universe of practices and needs during COVID-19 closures across all LEAs, including those that enroll few or no English learner students. Please take a few minutes to **respond to this ten-question survey by Monday, April 20**. Here is the full link to the survey: <https://forms.gle/P3q2McFej6sUq94b9>. For questions, contact Hannah Cousino at hcousino@dpcsb.org.

DME Announces Additional Payment for Charter LEAs

At the direction of Mayor Muriel Bowser, on Tuesday, April 14, Deputy Mayor for Education Paul Kihn announced plans to make additional funding available to public charter school LEAs in FY2020 following overspending by DCPS in the 2018-2019 school year. Additional information will be shared directly with LEA leaders and can also be accessed [HERE](#). Please contact DME's Director of Budget and Performance Management, [Kevin Wenzel](#) if you have questions.

Budget Considerations Memo

Much is still unknown about the impact or the duration of modified operations in the District due to coronavirus (COVID-19). The Deputy Mayor for Education's Contingency Education Budget Planning Response Work Group developed the potential revenue and expense implications the pandemic may have on local education agency (LEA) budgets, linked [HERE](#). LEAs are encouraged to apply these considerations to their contexts. The Response Work Group will continue to update this document as more information becomes available. For additional questions, please contact EdOps' Finance Team Director, [Shelley Hughes](#).

OSSE UPDATE

Attachments:

- Nonpublic School Guidance Part II
- IDEA Part C FAQ
- DHCF Guidance
- IDEA Part B Provision of FAPE FAQ
- Language Access Guidance

Nonpublic Schools, Part II: OSSE is issuing additional [guidance](#) that provides updates on nonpublic school payment, monitoring, and placement procedures. On Apr. 6, OSSE updated its initial guidance to clarify that both tuition and related service payments to nonpublic schools would continue for the first 30 calendar days following LEA closures. That 30-day period today, Apr. 15. The Nonpublic Schools, Part II

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guidance allows for an extension on tuition and related service payments through the end of the nonpublic school's regular school year, or through the date the LEA typically ends the school year, whichever is earlier. If you have questions relating to this guidance, please contact Yuliana Bruister at Yuliana.Bruister@dc.gov or (202) 741-0478.

IDEA Part C: Please find attached frequently asked questions on guidance related to COVID-19, Part C Provision of Early Intervention Services (Strong Start). Additional guidance from the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is also attached. It includes guidance on Strong Start/Early Intervention Service delivery through telemedicine during the DC public health emergency. Early interventionists should contact their agency directly with any questions.

There will also be a follow-up meeting for vendor agencies on Wednesday, April 15 from 11:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. to share ways in which their early interventionists are implementing telehealth and what barriers, if any, they are experiencing. Registration for the Strong Start vendor agencies meeting can be found at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/355098681458782221>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

IDEA Part B Provision of FAPE FAQ: In addition to FAQ guidance issued on March 25, OSSE is issuing the attached [guidance](#) that provides information on the implementation of IDEA regulatory requirements related to parent signatures, IEP revisions, compensatory education, OSSE monitoring activities, and allowable expenditures under IDEA Part B. If you have questions relating to this guidance, please contact the OSSE Division of Systems and Supports, K-12 policy team at OSSE.DSEpolicy@dc.gov.

Language Access Guidance: This [document](#) contains guidance to LEAs regarding their responsibility to ensure meaningful communication with limited English proficient parents, per federal law and state policy. When school officials provide information to students, parents, and the community about COVID-19 or actions the schools are taking in response to COVID-19, they must provide meaningful access to such information to English learner students and parents with limited English proficiency. This includes providing adequate notice of information about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of parents who are proficient in English. For questions, please contact Dr. Jennifer Norton at Jennifer.Norton@dc.gov.

For access to all COVID-19 related published guidance from OSSE, please visit <https://osse.dc.gov/page/updated-osse-guidance-documents>.

For more information on the District's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit coronavirus.dc.gov.