

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 23, 2020

DME Educator Tools

As we continue our work together in response to coronavirus (COVID-19), DME has created a new landing page at dme.dc.gov/educatortools to serve as a curated repository for guidance, Bulletins, working group documents, resources and more. The website will be updated regularly so check back often.

2020 Census

It is not too late for DC residents to complete the 2020 Census! An accurate count of children will ensure that DC receives adequate funding for education and education-related programs such as SNAP and Special Education grants. DC schools can help make sure that all students, particularly historically undercounted communities, are counted. Messaging and other resources for schools and educators can be found [here](#).

Visit dccensus2020.dc.gov for more information. Contact Melissa Bird (melissa.bird@dc.gov) if your LEA is interested in receiving Census materials (e.g. posters) for distribution or have questions related to the 2020 Census.

Share Your #LearnAtHomeDC Story

We're looking for highlights from Learning at Home around the District! Has your family shared in a breakthrough moment with a math problem? Are you a student that found a new favorite subject? Maybe you're a teacher who created a new way to engage students? Tell us all about it by sending a photo or video and a short description to digital@dc.gov.

Wellness Concerns for Students

A concern for schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency and learning at home is decreased contact with students and families to ensure they are safe and continue to engage with schools. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education's Family Support Work Group has released [guidance](#) for schools to help address this issue. When connecting with families, schools can use the [Family Wellness Check-In Guidance](#) for Educators, created by the Flamboyant Foundation, which includes the purpose of the checks and a list of helpful questions to ask on phone calls.

DCPS and DCPCS will begin to track student contact and will follow CFSA's [Guidance for DCPS/DCPCS in Responding to Concerns About Student Contact](#) if unable to contact a student. Another helpful resource for schools to use when checking in with families is this [list of COVID-19 Resources and Services](#) compiled by DCPS, which also includes a sample student contact tracker.

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DC Virtual Teacher Recruitment Fair

EdFuel and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education will be hosting a **free two-day, citywide DC Virtual Teacher Recruitment Fair** on Wednesday, May 6 from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm EST and Thursday, May 7 from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm EST. The fair is geared toward both current and prospective teachers. Learn more [HERE](#).

Shared Work Unemployment Insurance Program

The DOES Office of Unemployment Compensation (OUC) Shared Work Unemployment Insurance Program (Shared Work) is a voluntary program that provides an alternative to layoffs for employers confronted with a temporary decline in business. Applications for employers interested in participating in this program opened on April 20, 2020. Learn more [HERE](#).

Commercial Connectivity Resources

The DME Digital Divide Working Group compiled the following summary information from commercial providers and foundations about low or no-cost internet programs being offered in the short and long term. This summary page will be updated and maintained on the DME's [Educator Tools](#) site.

Contact Jenn Comey (Jennifer.comey@dc.gov) with any questions.

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.

OSSE Update

Attachments:

- Enrollment and Residency
- School Calendar Waiver Application
- Educator Credentialing Extension
- Child Care Subsidy Guidance
- Meal Provision Q&A
- OSSE Teaching and Learning Educator Content Support Sessions

Enrollment and Residency

The attached Enrollment and Residency document contains new guidance specific to residency verification requirements for enrolling students for the 2020-21 school year. For part I of the

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residency verification requirement guidance, please refer to guidance issued [here](#). The deadline for student enrollment has been extended until Monday, June 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The attached guidance includes additional information on enrollment deadlines, expanded use of OSSE residency verification tools, extension of expiration dates at the DC Department of Motor Vehicle Documents (DMV), and the ability to request additional documentation for residency verification. If you have questions relating to these policies, please contact OSSE's Director of Enrollment and Residency, Aaron Parrott at Aaron.Parrott@dc.gov.

School Calendar Waivers

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, DCPS and DC public charter schools have closed schools and moved to distance learning. LEAs serving students in grades K-12 should apply for a waiver of the requirement that a school year shall include a minimum of 180 instructional days, at 6 hours per day as prescribed in 5-A DCMR §2100.3. To apply for a waiver, an LEA must submit the attached waiver application which includes a distance learning implementation plan to OSSE's deputy chief of staff, Justin Tooley at Justin.Tooley@dc.gov by May 4, 2020. Waiver applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Schools that do not serve students in grades K-12 do not have to submit an application to waive the 180-day requirement. The regulation only applies to students in elementary and secondary grades (K-12). LEAs that do not serve these students do not have to send additional information to OSSE. However, those schools should continue to inform PCSB as to school closure decisions, per PCSB communications.

Educator Credentialing Extension

OSSE has been authorized to extend the validity of an OSSE-issued educator credential that would otherwise expire during the COVID-19 Emergency Period. The "COVID-19 Emergency Period" means the period during which the public health emergency declared by the Mayor is in effect, and the forty-five (45) day period thereafter.

This extension applies to applicants who meet either of the following conditions:

1. Applicant holds a valid initial credential that expires and needs to be upgraded to a standard credential; or
2. Applicant holds a valid standard credential that expires and needs to be renewed.

Please see the attached guidance for more information and if you have any questions, contact Tony Graham at anthonys.graham@dc.gov.

Child Care Subsidy:

Given the extended public health-related closures, OSSE is continuing payments to subsidized child care providers. The attached guidance document contains amended payment calculation criteria, along with previously issued guidance regarding the attendance requirements during closure and continuation of payments for subsidized child care providers during approved closures based on changed operating status due to public health actions. If you have questions

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relating to this guidance please contact Eva Laguerre, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning, at (202) 741-5942 or Eva.Laguerre@dc.gov.

Meal Provision Q&A:

The attached updated meal provision guidance policy supersedes the OSSE policy on this topic released on March 24, 2020.

A summary of major updates in the Q&A include:

- Clarification that meals can be served on weekends;
- The ability for bulk food items to be provided as long as safe and proper processes are in place;
- The ability for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) to be served; and
- Clarification on civil rights requirements for meal sites.

This guidance was also sent directly to school nutrition POCs. Please continue to reach out to [OSSE's nutrition programs team](#) with questions.

OSSE Teaching and Learning Educator Content Support Sessions

Content specialists from the OSSE Division of Teaching and Learning (TAL) will be hosting weekly support sessions during extended school closures. During these sessions, TAL content specialists will share resources and provide support regarding distance learning, as well as facilitate networking and resource sharing between educators, and provide a space to discuss current challenges and potential solutions. Weekly content sessions will begin on **Monday, April 27, 2020** and the [weekly schedule](#) and RSVP instructions will be updated on [OSSE's Distance Learning Resource Page](#) each Thursday. School leaders, instructional coaches, teachers, service providers and other support staff are welcome to participate in relevant sessions.

To give input on content session topics, or to make a request for additional resources, one-on-one support via “office hours,” or customized trainings, please use this [Resources and Support Request Form](#). For questions, view [TAL content specialist contact information here](#).

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

For resources and additional information on the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.