

Dear BPS Educators,

First and foremost, thank you for your patience as we develop a response to this unprecedented situation. **We recognize that many of you have unanswered questions about the expectations for providing educational resources to students during this time.** We are continuing to work collaboratively to establish clear guidelines for all employees. While there are still many details to be worked out and many things we do not yet know, there are a few things we can say.

We know that remote learning is a new experience for many educators, students, and families. Even so, **we are seeing the incredible creativity, resourcefulness, commitment, and professionalism from educators across the city as you all have been going above and beyond to get ready to support our students going forward.** This is especially incredible as each of us is doing the best we can to get ourselves and our loved ones prepared and safe for what lies ahead. We do not expect that everyone will be an expert from day one, but we do expect that everyone will give it a shot, learn, and improve as we go along. We can do this!

Even as we strive to give our students stimulating and joyful learning experiences, our first priority is connection. **Please make sure at least one adult in your school connects with every student.** Your school leader will be coordinating a system to ensure at least one adult in your school connects with every student. All school-based educators will be asked to establish and maintain this contact with a group of students. Self-contained and classroom teachers should expect this group will be the students in their classroom. School communities will work together to establish student groups for secondary teachers, specialists, ESL/SLIFE, and paraprofessionals. Administrators will provide a system for recording this contact, but please make sure you let them know if you are unable to establish or maintain communication with a student in your group.

1. Our shared goal is to do the best we can to keep our students loved, safe, and learning, while ensuring that they stay connected to caring adults from school and to each other.
2. During this period, we are not attempting to replicate everything that happens in school. At the same time, we want to provide equitable access to educational resources and protect the critical relationships students have with all of us and each other.
3. We are encouraging all students to be online and for teachers to connect with each of their students every week and providing either supplemental learning opportunities or helping them access the district curated materials.
4. We do not expect formal attendance to be taken or formal grades to be given except those which reflect work through March 16th. This could change if the length of this closure goes beyond April 27th. There may also be changes from the state or by BPS after we have had further discussions about high school implications regarding grading, MCAS, or other graduation or higher education requirements for fall admissions.
5. Any work that is provided during this time should be considered supplemental.

6. We have a shared responsibility to ensure that all students have access to learning during this time so we can keep them engaged and prevent learning loss. Whatever we provide for general education students must be provided and offered to special education students and EL learners with appropriate modifications or accommodations. Further guidance on requirements for progress monitoring, related services, IEP meetings and English Learner reporting will be forthcoming.

### **Resources to Support This Transition:**

The BPS Digital Learning Team has developed webinars, scheduled office hours, and created resources to help students and families, teachers, and central offices in this time of need. These include 1:1 and small group supports as well as webinars focused on Google Classroom, Clever, Google Sites, and Zoom/Hangouts, our primary tools used in virtual learning. **Webinar topics include differentiating online learning. You can find all of these and more resources [here](#).**

The Telescope Network will continue to connect educators to resources and each other as we face a new set of teaching and learning challenges and opportunities. **Please fill out [this survey](#) to help us better understand how we can support teachers and families in this new learning climate.** The survey also includes an opportunity to volunteer for teacher leadership roles throughout the period of closing. The results of this survey will be used to help create professional learning opportunities for teachers and others. Admin, parents, and students are welcome to take the survey, too! We're in this together. For more information about Telescope check out [our website](#).

Some issues on which we are still awaiting or developing guidance and which many of you have asked about are:

- Term dates and school calendar
- Any changes to graduation or promotion requirements
- Specific work expectations for all BTU bargaining units
- Evaluation and artifacts
- Final course grades and informal assessment of student work
- Early college, AP and IB grades and exams

We will get back to you with direction on these issues just as soon as we can.

**Again, thank you for all of your hard work during this unprecedented time.** We have heard so many stories of educators going above and beyond during this very difficult and challenging time and appreciation from so many parents and families.

**We will have more information soon and are aiming to get as many answers as possible by the end of the week.** Please note that everything is still very new, very fluid and everything continues to change and evolve. We will do our best to communicate changes as they occur.

The whole city is pulling for our kids. They have established a Resiliency Fund. If you are interested in donating and or volunteering, you can visit [www.Boston.Gov](http://www.Boston.Gov) to learn how you can help.

Thank you again for all you do!

Jessica Tang  
BTU President

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BPS Superintendent