



March 27, 2020

Dear Excel Families,

Governor Baker announced that **all public and private schools across the state will remain closed until at least Monday, May 4th**, extending our closure by another week. You can read more about his statewide announcement here: <https://wbur.fm/2UCxzus>. We remain in close touch with education and public health officials and will not reopen until it is clearly safe to do so.

Over the last two weeks, our amazing teachers and staff have been working hard transitioning to a remote learning environment. Last week alone, over 400 Chromebooks and 850 meals were distributed to our students, and hundreds of lesson plans were delivered through Google Classroom.

As a reminder, **teachers are available from 12-2 PM daily, Monday through Friday**. In addition, all advisors are reaching out to contact families or students at least once per week to check in on how they are doing. Please contact your child's advisor if you have any questions.

We will continue with meal service with new hours, starting Monday. During our school closure, we will continue to serve "grab-and-go" packages with breakfast and lunch from Monday through Friday from two sites: Excel Academy - Chelsea and Excel Academy Charter High School. Starting Monday, **we'll offer meals from 10AM-12PM. Please take note of the time as this is a change.**

If you need help locating food providers closer to your home, please reach out to Estevan Puerta at 617-466-9384 (Estevan speaks English and Spanish). There is information on other community resources on our webpage specifically dedicated to COVID-19: <https://www.excelacademy.org/coronavirusupdates/>.

Finally, I'd like to close with a quote that resonated with me as I'm trying to process the extraordinary time we are living in, which also helped me recognize what is ultimately behind our collective choice to follow social distancing rules:

"When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms...what you're seeing is love in action. What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, for our immuno-compromised brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet. Take a moment, when you're on your walk, or on your way to the store...to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love."

- Paul Williams (Grammy-winning Songwriter)

Thank you as always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Owen".

Owen Stearns
CEO