Dear Colleagues and Families,

As always, we hope you are well. As I’m sure you have heard, Governor Baker announced today that all Massachusetts schools will remain closed for the rest of this school year. We are saddened by the idea of not seeing our students face to face but recognize that safety is more important than anything else. We think the Governor made the right decision in light of the current status of COVID 19, everyone's efforts to prevent more spreading, and the need to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

When we built our Remote Learning Plan (RLP), we intentionally focused on the "what if we can't reopen" scenario knowing we'd be able to peel back from that if we did re-open. Commissioner Riley has indicated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will release a second Remote Learning Plan guidance document later this week. Once we receive that document, we'll revisit our RLP and make any necessary adjustments.

Now that we know we won't be back, we'll look to provide more detail to the RLP and focus more on how we assist our seniors as they transition beyond high school to college, the military, and the work force. We're also focusing on how to leverage the start of next school year to close the learning gaps for kids in grades Pre-K through 11. We are still hoping to have some programming over the summer to help students get back on track but even that remains unsure at this time.

While we want you to know what our next steps are and how we are working to support students, we also want to emphasize the need to focus on your own wellbeing and that of your children. Doing the best you can is all we ask. We realize that remote learning will look different across homes based on family needs and that is perfectly fine. Together, we'll figure it out. If you have questions or concerns we encourage you to contact your child’s school. Email is being checked by all staff members regularly. This, and other electronic forms of communication (like Dojo at the elementary level), are the best ways to communicate with staff. Staff working from home can still answer phones and direct your calls as needed; but may not be able to do so in real time. If you reach the school’s answering machine, please leave a message to ensure we can respond to your questions or concerns as quickly as possible. For help in Spanish, Arabic, or Portuguese, call 781-485-8453 and leave a message. A translator will call you back.

It is more important now than ever that schools and families work together to help kids with anything they need. If your family is in need of assistance or has any other needs (example: additional food, support, medicine), please call Revere 311 which is available Monday thru Friday from 7:30 am-6:00 pm, or the Massachusetts 211 hotline, which is available 24 hours a day and in multiple languages.

Be well,

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For up-to-date information regarding the 2019 novel Coronavirus, please visit the DPH COVID-19 web site at www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus Or the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov