

# *Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District*



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March 13, 2020

Dear HWRSD Families,

According to Monica Bharel, Commissioner of the MA Department of Health, we are at “a critical point in the outbreak in Massachusetts of COVID-19.” In order to allow for adequate social distancing to help protect vulnerable populations, and after many discussions with State and local public health officials, emergency management personnel and local superintendents, I have made the decision to close all HWRSD schools for a minimum of two weeks beginning Monday, March 16, 2020.

This means schools will be closed with a tentative return date of Monday, March 30, 2020. That date will be reassessed throughout the two-week closure period based on the evolving COVID-19 situation across the State. This action is a deliberate and proactive step made by all school districts in the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC) with the goal of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and reducing the number of people who may become infected in our region.

In the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District we are fully invested in the continuity of education for all of our students. Early next week we will be notifying families about available resources. Our goal is to support students and families to the best of our ability in these challenging times. I cannot emphasize enough how difficult a decision this was to make.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these unprecedented times.

Please take care of yourself and each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Albert G. Ganem, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Albert G. Ganem, Jr.,  
Superintendent of Schools

*In pursuit of educational excellence, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District envisions an interactive learning community of creative, passionate thinkers in a safe and healthy environment, embracing opportunities to contribute to and compete in a global society while valuing honesty, integrity, responsibility, and respect for each individual.*