Flint Community Schools

Frequently Asked Questions—April 24, 2020

What is the district’s Distance Learning Plan and when does it begin?

Our Distance Learning Plan was developed to ensure students continue to learn through the end of the school year—regardless of access to technology. The plan, which included input from the Board of Education, union leaders and teachers, has been approved by the GISD and is now in effect. It can be accessed on our website at www.flintschools.org.

How will my child learn with the new Distance Learning Plan?

Students who have devices and an internet connection at home are continuing to use the online platforms they were already familiar with using at school. For now, students who don’t have a device at home are able to receive a weekly print learning packet. However, we are in the process of attempting to connect all students with devices and hot spots, and any barriers to connectivity will be remedied as soon as possible.

Additionally, students and families are being contacted twice each week, at minimum—one by a teacher for learning support, and once by a Wellness Team member for social emotional support. Flint Community Schools will also work to provide learning activities aligned to the unique needs of each student, including those who require English Language Learning services, Individualized Education Plans, and 504 plans.

We are also grateful to our partners, Crim Fitness Foundation and YouthQuest, who are providing a daily Mindfulness video and/or physical education activity for students that will be accessible through the Flint Community Schools website. Also, a daily story hour will be provided for students through the district website and other social media outlets (Facebook, YouTube, etc.). During these challenging times, we will continue to explore opportunities to ensure our students have access to learning materials necessary for their academic growth and seek out additional partnerships to benefit the children we are privileged to serve.

How do I pick up a hard copy of my child’s learning packet?

Please contact your school building directly. Each building will have their own method of distributing the technology and learning packets. If you have any additional questions, contact superintendent@flintschools.org.

Through what online platform are teachers, students and parents communicating, and how often?

Notifications will be shared via www.flintschools.org, www.flintparents.org, Facebook - www.facebook.com/flintcommunityschools, Twitter - www.twitter.com/flintschools, Wellness Calls via the Wellness Teams and Robo Calls, Press Releases and Public Services Announcements. Fliers are also being distributed at the Food Distribution Sites. Flint Community Schools will also share information with community partners to release on their websites and social media platforms.

Students and families are being contacted twice each week, at minimum—one by a teacher for learning support, and once by a Wellness Team member for social emotional support. Teachers will continue to interface with students during office hours using web-based communication tools, phone calls, emails, shared documents, and other modes of communication so students can get real-time feedback and guidance.
• School counselors and social workers are available to support students with non-instructional needs. Families may contact any counselor or social worker through email if you have any concern or issue that needs attention.
• If families need help with an assignment, they can use ClassDojo and other online platforms to contact the teacher or send an email to their teacher.
• If a student is struggling with an assignment or needs clarification, teachers will also be available during scheduled weekly office hours to answer any questions.

Where do families sign up for 60 days of free internet?

Students without computers will be issued a District laptop, as well as support in establishing internet connection through mobile hotspots and/or through local internet providers.

Xfinity and AT&T are offering free internet services for 60 days to household students. Some of these companies are temporarily stopping shut offs and late fees for existing customers. Families can call internet providers to begin the process for 60 days of free internet.

Xfinity: 855-846-8376
AT&T: 855-220-5211

Will state testing, including the MSTEP, SAT, ACT and AP take place this spring?

All state mandated testing for Spring 2020 has been suspended by the Michigan Department of Education. This includes WIDA, M-STEP, MI-ACCESS, SAT, PSAT 8, PSAT 9, PSAT 10, and Work Keys testing. See below for specific tests.

MSTEP AND SAT: We have learned from the Governor’s executive order that state testing, including MSTEP and SATs, will be canceled, though students will be given the opportunity to take the SAT and PSAT in the fall.

ACT: ACT testing has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students that will be high school seniors in the fall of 2020 will have an opportunity to participate in the SAT in the fall of 2020 in a testing session that will be paid for by the State of Michigan. As more details are shared from the Michigan Department of Education, the district will share the information with our high school families.

AP: College Board, the sponsor of AP testing, has made special arrangements for AP tests to be conducted remotely by computer for the Spring 2020 test cycle. If a student has taken an AP course this year, the student should contact their AP teacher and/or counselor for more specific information.

What about Michigan’s third grade reading law?

The “Read by Grade 3” law will not go into effect in the Spring of 2020. The district continues to work through our curriculum and intervention strategies to assist all students in meeting the standards specific to their grade level. Third grade students will not be prevented from advancing to the next grade even if their reading levels have not met third grade standards by the end of June 2020. That said, we encourage all students to continue reading regularly to further strengthen reading skills.

My child receives special education services. What can we expect?

It is our intent to keep students, families, and staff safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. The district is following state and federal government guidelines regarding special education services during the state mandated closure of schools.
The Learning Support Services (LSS) team will be developing an individual distance learning contingency plan for every student in the district with an IEP. These plans will include goals that will be addressed, supports that will be provided, frequency of contact from LSS staff during the remainder of the school year.

Every attempt will be made to support the needs of special education students utilizing safe distance learning practices. IEP yearly meetings will continue to be scheduled via conference calls or video conferencing. The district will also be developing protocols to conduct special education evaluations and re-evaluations via remote testing sessions.

Additionally, a member of the LSS team will be reaching out to the parent/guardian of special education students to share the details of each student’s distance learning contingency plan and schedule contact check-in times for each student.

**Will high school seniors be able to graduate?**

Seniors in high school will be able to graduate if they were on track to graduate. For seniors who were not on track to graduate, please see more information below.

- Seniors on track to graduate but were failing one or more of their current second semester classes will have the opportunity to complete additional work to demonstrate their ability to pass those classes that they were in jeopardy of failing.
- Seniors that are currently credit deficient and would not have been able to graduate in June will have the opportunity to complete recovery credit classes by the end of June 2020, enabling them to earn enough credits to graduate with the Class of 2020. This will depend on the specific number of credits that need to be completed. Counselors and staff will be reaching out to seniors that are in this category to determine specific options for each student.

Information regarding a graduation ceremony will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

**Will employees be paid for the remainder of the year?**

Yes. The District will continue to pay school employees through the remainder of the school year in a manner consistent with collective bargaining agreements, district policy[ies] and procedure[s], and applicable federal and state laws. In accordance with the requirements of the executive order, staff will be redeployed to provide meaningful work in the context of the Plan.

We are grateful for our employee’s continued service and commitment to the students, families and community of Flint.

**Will food distribution services continue?**

Yes, we recognize that this crisis has placed an economic hardship on many of our families, and we will continue our food distribution services.

The following locations have been designated for food distribution in the City of Flint during the ongoing pandemic. Food will be distributed two days per week only—Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for breakfast and lunch.

On Tuesday the meals will supply for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Thursday the meals will supply for Friday and Monday of the following week.

Families unable to make it to the Food Distribution Sites can contact the Flint Community Schools at superintendent@flintschools.org.
North Zone
- Northwestern HS - G2138 W. Carpenter, Flint
- Brownell/Holmes - 6602 Oxley Dr., Flint
- Berston Field House - 3300 Saginaw St., Flint
- Carpenter Road- River Park Apartments 7002 Pemberton Dr., Flint

Central Zone
- Potter Elementary - 2500 N. Averill, Flint
- Durant-Tuuri-Mott Elementary - 1518 W. Third Ave., Flint
- Stonegate – 3103 Stonegate Dr., Flint
- Summerfield – 1360 Melbourne, Flint

South Zone
- Freeman Elementary - 4001 Ogema, Flint
- Howard Estates – 1928 Howard Ave., Flint
- Evergreen Regency – 3102 Fox Circle, Flint
- Southwestern Academy - 1420 W. Twelfth St. Flint

Are school buildings open?

Our schools and offices will continue to operate remotely to the fullest extent possible. District buildings are open on a very limited basis only to essential employees. If you have questions or requests, please email superintendent@flintschools.org. We are trying to protect our staff, our students and our community.