



March 19, 2020

Dear D51 Families,

Like many of you, we learned that Governor Polis signed an executive order closing school buildings through Friday, April 17, due to the coronavirus (COVID -19). At this time, and per this order, all students - including D51 students, would return to school on Monday, April 20. You can read the press release and executive order [here](#).

This is a challenging time for schools and families across the nation. The impact of the COVID-19 virus has been significant. In response to this closure, teachers will spend the coming week preparing lesson plans, and remote learning is scheduled to start on March 30th.

With the closure of school buildings, our school leaders have been evaluating their preparedness plans, identifying technical needs, inventorying and assembling Chromebooks for check out, and working with school staff to develop school-specific plans for remote learning.

You will be hearing directly from your child's school principal about their specific plans by the end of the day on Monday, March 23. Below are guidelines and things to consider for students and families as they prepare for remote learning. Please read this message in its entirety, so that you stay informed. As new information becomes available, you will be updated. Closure-related updates are also being posted at d51schools.org/resources/covid19.

What is remote learning?

Remote learning experiences may include online resources, online instruction delivery, email, and other electronic platforms. D51 educators are expected to plan for and deliver instruction, as well as engage with learners to the degree feasible given the current circumstances. Teachers have flexibility in how to design remote learning based on their content and student needs. This definition will evolve as our system's capacity grows over time. At this time, we do not anticipate that staff will have access to physical materials (copy machines, scanners, printers, etc.) to make and distribute learning packets. So most, if not all, learning will happen digitally.

When will remote learning begin?

Remote learning is scheduled to begin on March 30th. Your student's teacher and/or building principal will be reaching out to you in the very near future explaining how students will be accessing their remote learning.

How often are teachers expected to deliver remote lessons?

It is expected that a good faith effort will be made by our educators to ensure that students have weekly remote learning opportunities. At this time, D51 secondary teachers will create at least

three lessons per week, per class. Elementary teachers are focusing on 2-3 lessons of literacy and math per week. Should our district need to close for a longer period of time, weekly lesson delivery needs may be increased.

What are the learning expectations for my student(s)?

It is an expectation that D51 students are engaging in remote learning during school building closures in order to minimize learning gaps.

What if my student needs a device at home for remote learning?

Every D51 building has Chromebooks for students to check out and will be checking out these devices on Tuesday, March 24th. Please check your student's school website and watch for emails from the principal on how the check out process will be carried out. Information will also be posted at www.d51schools.org/resources/covid19

If your student is a Tech Scholar or Early Scholar (attends classes on the WCCC campus or CMU campus), he/she will need to check out a laptop instead of a Chromebook. Please notify the staff member assisting you in the checkout process that your student needs a laptop instead of a Chromebook.

How will this impact graduation and earning credits?

As stated above, it is an expectation that all students will participate in remote learning. Completed student work in each of their classes will be used as evidence for earning credit towards their graduation requirements.

What if my student is participating in an internship or job-shadowing experience for credit?

Students who are participating in an internship or job-shadowing experience as part of receiving school credit will be allowed to report to their employer as long as 1. The employer remains open and does not have any concerns regarding the virus, and 2. parent/guardian has approved continuing with the internship or job-shadowing.

What if my student is enrolled in a course at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) or Western Community College (WCCC)?

CMU has notified their students that all on-campus classes have been moved to online for the remainder of the semester. If your student needs a device, please plan to check out a laptop at your student's high school on Tuesday, March 24th. Your student's professor will be contacting you regarding how online learning will be set up for the class. If you do not hear from the professor, you are encouraged to email him or her.

What about preschool students?

Preschool classroom staff will connect families with resources and recommended activities to support learning. Preschool teachers are creating learning activity packets for our preschool students during the building closure. These packets will not require online access nor technology. Parents will be able to pick up the learning packets on March 24th. Your student's teacher and/or principal will be reaching out to you in the very near future explaining how and when students will be accessing their learning packets.

For students who qualify for special education services, providers/therapists may use online

methods to deliver therapy. Chromebooks will be available for parents to pick up at the home school on Tuesday if needed. Please check your student's school website and watch for emails from the principal on how the check out process will be carried out.

My student receives Special Education, Gifted & Talented or English Language Learning services. What will those look like with remote learning?

Our Student Services Office is coordinating efforts to ensure student educational needs are met to the greatest extent possible during these unique circumstances. Special Education professionals will coordinate with teachers to provide support to students with disabilities. Gifted & Talented professionals will coordinate to provide support to students with Advanced Learning Plans. The English Language Development professionals will coordinate to provide support to English Learners.

How can I help my student(s) for remote learning?

There are many things parents and/or guardians can do to support remote learning for their students. Here are a few examples:

- Check your email often for updates and notices from D51 and your student's teacher(s)
- Check out the D51 learning resources for families and students.
 - [Elementary Resources for Parents](#)
 - [Secondary Resources for Parents](#)
- Set up a place to focus on learning at home.
- Familiarize yourself with the technology that your student will be using during the remote learning time period.
- Keep a routine or schedule during school building closure with
 - Set school work time, quiet time and outside time
 - Routine bedtimes
 - Help your student balance TV and device screen time

How do I check out a Chromebook, and how many can I get for my kids?

Chromebooks can be checked out at schools on Tuesday, March 24th, starting at 9 a.m. Parents are asked to come with their children for checkout, and parents will have to sign a checkout form, which is available at <https://bit.ly/3b7JBT0>. Printing and filling out the last page of the policy will help the process move more quickly. Do not email these forms - we will need a paper copy at checkout time. Paper copies will be available at the school if you do not have access to a printer. The checkout process may vary slightly by the school, and you may hear more from your child's school early next week about how it will work at your particular school. Depending on supply and demand at your child's school, families are encouraged to share a Chromebook or Chromebooks with siblings to ensure everyone who needs a Chromebook can get a Chromebook.

My student left his/her books and/or other personal property at school that he/she needs.

Schools will be open to students on Tuesday, March 24th, starting at 9 a.m. Students can come during this time to pick up items they may need for remote learning. Students should only remain at the school as long as needed to pick up these items and practice social distancing while in the school.

With no counselors at schools and students more isolated from their peers, how can students seek mental health help?

Students and families can always access any of the crisis services listed on the [D51 Mental Health Resource](#) page. The district is working on procedures for students and families to communicate with their school counselors or mental health therapists. D51 will post as soon as these procedures are in place. If you feel your student is in immediate danger to themselves or others please call 911.

What if we do not have Wi-Fi at our home?

Charter will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll, call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households. Some areas may not be served by cable providers. Alternatives include but are not limited to using a hot spot, public Wi-Fi, or internet provided through a cell phone company. Some cell service providers have removed their data cap to support students' online learning. Please check with your local provider.

Will meals be provided for students during building closures?

D51 Nutritional Services has identified 11 school sites for drive-up service (plus one with a private vendor - Lincoln Orchard Mesa), and the Lunch Lizard will visit three locations to provide a breakfast/lunch meal packet. [Find more information here.](#)

What if I need child care during school closure?

All D51 school campuses, including preschools, will be closed through April 17th, however, there are four Extended Hour sites that will be open during the COVID-19 school closure. Parents must [register](#) as spaces are limited. This closure includes preschools. This closure may be extended as we learn more about the impact of COVID-19.

Please contact [Mesa County Department of Human Services](#) for any additional options.

What about events in April and May?

We are constantly revisiting our calendars making decisions based on updates from local, state, and federal health experts. Events between March 18 and April 17 will be canceled, and we will revisit other events at a later time.

Where can I direct any additional questions and comments?

Please click [here](#) to send in any questions and comments.

Where do I get more information about COVID-19?

Visit <https://health.mesacounty.us/>

Where do I get more information about the D51 closure due to COVID-19?

d51schools.org/resources/covid19.