

HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: March 18, 2020

The district is enacting a closure of school from March 13 - April 6, 2020 and school-related activities across the district.

The information detailed in this document is intended to provide guidance for this period. It is important to note that this is a fluid situation and so this document will be regularly updated and modified. It is recommended that you revisit frequently for the latest updates and information.

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Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Q. How will the days of a three-week closure count against school days?

A. From the time the school year resumes, Hingham will be in school through June 23,

	2020 which is our regularly scheduled 185th day.
Q.	Currently the schools are closed through April 6, 2020. Will the closure be extended? How will we be notified if it is?
A.	The Hingham Public Schools will continue to monitor this <i>fluid</i> situation and will make the best determinations in the best interest of the students and staff. Information will continue to be provided via our website, our email distribution list, and on all major news outlets.
Q.	What will happen to April vacation (April 20-24)?
A.	At this time, the April vacation week is scheduled as planned. However, given these unexpected school closures, we may revisit the need for additional school days, and this will be discussed in the near future with all impacted employees.
Q.	Will there be access to any school buildings during the closure?
A.	No. At this time there is no plan to allow access beyond the scheduled day that has already happened on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Any access needs beyond that must be urgent and requested from the principal of your child's school.
Q.	How will the school community provide information on important factors that will help us to determine our readiness to reopen?
A.	The district is currently working on a process to collect this information. Until further information becomes available, please contact your building principal or direct supervisor.
Q.	Will food services be available for students that qualify for free and reduced lunch?
A.	Starting Tuesday, March 17, FREE Grab and Go lunches have been available for any Hingham student in need while Hingham Public Schools are closed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · When: Pickup: Mondays-Fridays, 9:00 am - 11:30 am · Where: Picnic tables outside of the Hingham High School cafeteria, 17 Union St., Hingham, MA 02043 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Please check in with the School Nutrition Employee on-site, and they will bring the meal(s) to your car · Meals must be taken and consumed OFF SITE · If you are unable to pick up meals but are still interested in receiving meals, please contact Food Service Director, Kim Smyth, at ksmyth@hinghamschools.org to discuss other options. If email is unavailable, call 781-804-2509 and leave a message. Voice messages will be checked daily Monday through Friday.
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Frequently Asked Questions Student Learning

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Q.	Are the days during the three-week closure counted as “school days?”
A.	No. These are non-school days. These days will essentially be considered a three-week school closing period (March 13 - April 6). There is no expectation of online learning or for the provision of educational services during this period. It is important to note that the school year will not extend beyond the 185th day (June 23rd). However, the district and our teachers will remain connected with students and families, offering enrichment activities that maintain skill.
Q.	Are there expectations around Distance and Online Learning Expectations for Students or Teachers?
A.	<p>These are non-school days per the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Teachers will not be assigning new work or expecting students to submit work to be graded. During this closure, the district will provide enrichment activities such as reading lists, math packets, online practice, etc. to all students.</p> <p>These enrichment activities are not mandatory and are not considered instruction. For all students K-12, there will be no assignments or additional learning provided by the district or teachers. This is being done per the direction of the DESE in order to ensure equity of access for all students. Additionally, we are not allowed to provide any digital or remote learning opportunities to replace in-person teaching during this closure, based on guidance from the MA Commissioner of Education.</p>
Q.	What resources are available for teachers, parents, and students to enrich learning during this period of closure?
A.	<p>Each week, individual classroom teachers will share specific learning engagement activities with their students or families on each Monday at 9:00 AM. These activities are completely optional and are designed to help students stay in connection with school. This may be done through well established classroom norms, such as Google Classroom, or may be sent via email through X2 Aspen. High school students can check their school email, whereas middle and elementary email communication will be delivered to parents/guardians.</p> <p>General Engagement Activities for all students</p>

	<p>The following general suggestions were sent on Friday, March 13th. K-12 Learning Engagement Suggestions</p> <p>District Resources: Students and Staff are encouraged to continue to access resources through the Clever Portal here: https://clever.com/in/hingham</p> <p>Library Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://library.hinghamschools.com Destiny Library System • http://hinghamhighlmc.weebly.com/ High School Library website • https://hmslmc.weebly.com/ Middle School Library website <p>Aspen (X2): https://ma-hingham.myfollett.com</p> <p>Please send any questions or issues with log-in for students to jandrews@hinghamschools.org</p>
Q.	Given this closure, what happens with the MCAS ELA test for students?
A.	<p>At this time, the DESE has postponed the Grade 3-8 and Grade 10 English Language Arts MCAS to a later date that has yet to be determined. As of right now, there have been no decisions made about potential changes to the Math or Science test dates. We will provide additional information as we receive it from the DESE.</p>
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Frequently Asked Questions Special Education

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Q.	My child is on an IEP or 504 Plan, and I am concerned about the implications of the closure on my child’s educational progress.
A.	Upon the conclusion of the closure, and the re-opening of the district, IEP teams will be available to convene to determine what type of impact the closure had on your child’s educational progress, and make individualized team-based decisions as needed. Please refer to the following guidance.
Q.	My child is on an IEP, and attends an out-of-district placement. What are the implications of Hingham’s closure on my child attending the out-of-district placement?
A.	Hingham’s closure should not have any impact on your child attending the out-of-district placement. If the transportation vendor is open and the receiving school is open, students should continue attending school. As information is changing daily, please communicate directly with the outplacement school for any updates on their closures. Please refer to the following guidance.
Q.	My child is/has been receiving Home/Hospital Tutoring. Will my child receive these services during the closure?
A.	Home/Hospital tutoring will not be provided during the closure. If students continue to require home/hospital tutoring once schools reopen, parents should have their child’s doctor complete an updated home/hospital form and submit the completed form to the Director of Student Services.
Q.	My child is on an IEP/504. How will the timelines for evaluation, reevaluation, and IEP/504 annual meetings be handled?
A.	All services and timelines have been paused and will resume when schools open. Should there be any additional guidance provided by DESE, we will provide you with that information as soon as it becomes available.
Q.	My child is on an IEP and receives home services. Will these home services continue during the closure?
A.	All services, including home services, will be paused during the school closure.
Q.	My child is on an IEP and receives “services only” (i.e., speech/physical therapy/occupational therapy). Will my child receive these services during the

	closure?
A.	Services will not be provided during the closure. IEP teams will make a determination regarding how best to address the gap in service upon return to school.
Q.	Will my child’s special education liaison, related service provider, and elementary/secondary coordinators be available if I have a question during this closure?
A.	Yes, special education teachers, related services providers, elementary/secondary coordinators, the Assistant Director of Student Services/Out of District Coordinator, and the Director of Student Services will be available to assist with specific questions as needed. You can expect a “check-in” from your child’s liaison, in the form of a phone call or email during this time as well. Click here for information on private calling.
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Frequently Asked Questions Activities, Events, and Athletics

Q.	Are there any athletic, club, or activity events happening during this period of closure?
A.	No. All school-related events are canceled during this period.
Q.	Are spring sports delayed?
A.	Yes. After much discussion, the MIAA BOD decided to delay the start of the 2020 spring season to April 27th.
Q.	Are All Town Chorus, All Town Band, and the K-12 Art Show canceled?
A.	Yes. At this time these events are canceled. More information will be forthcoming from our curriculum leaders.
Q.	How will the delays and cancellations impact stipends and payments for coaches and advisors?
A.	For activities and athletic events/seasons we will need to revisit what and how those earning stipends will be paid. More information will be forthcoming following further discussions.
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Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 Resources and Support

Q.	Should everyone be practicing social distancing?
A.	Yes. Please do your part. Carefully consider the necessity of being together. This is not a vacation. It is an extreme measure to allow for social distancing so the virus is not spread. Not being exposed to the virus is the best way not to get sick. Please refer to this CDC webpage for other recommendations to prevent illness:

	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html ”
Q.	How do I contact the Hingham Board of Health?
A.	<i>Susan Sarni Executive Health Officer 781-741-1466</i>
Q.	Where should I go for updates from the Town of Hingham?
A.	The town’s website is consistently updated with the latest information here .
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