

Update on Academics during Coronavirus Closure

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) will continue to provide regular updates on operational, academic and other issues of concern related to the closing of schools due to the coronavirus pandemic. This document is specific to the impact on student academics.

Additional information on any topics related to the District's response to the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic is available at browardschools.com/coronavirus.

Questions addressed in this document

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11. What about dual enrollment courses at colleges and universities?
12. What about my internship or apprenticeship course?
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1. When is the conclusion of the third quarter marking period?

- The third quarter marking period, which was scheduled to end on Thursday, March 19, will be extended to now **end on the third instructional day after students return** to school. This applies to all elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, center schools and high school programs at technical colleges.
- Teachers do not have to submit quarter grades by Thursday, March 19. The deadline for submitting grades will be at the close of business on the third instructional day after students return.
- Teachers in grade level and course specific teams will collaborate to determine what, if any, adjustments will need to be made to previously published grading criteria.
- Students will be informed of any adjustments on the date of their return.
- The fourth quarter will start on the fourth day of instruction upon students' return.

2. Does this mean that learning is suspended until we return?

- **NO.** Learning opportunities and supports are available now.
- BCPS will commence learning and instruction on Monday, March 30.
- Teachers will be provided professional learning on delivering instruction in a distance learning environment on March 20, 2020.
- Additional information for teachers, student, and parents will be provided in the coming days.

3. What can students and families do right now?

- Students and families should ensure they can access their BCPS LaunchPad.
 - i. Go to: sso.browardschools.com
 - ii. Enter the student number as the username.
 - iii. For grades 3 – 12, use the student's previously issued password.
 - iv. For grades K – 2, use the student's four (4) digit PIN as the password.
 - v. More information is available at browardschools.com/sso
- Go to the BCPS Learning Never Closes website browardschools.com/learningnevercloses, which provides detailed information on how to continue learning 24/7/365.
 - i. The **highlighted links** section on the righthand edge provides quick links to parent resources, teacher resources, textbooks and support for CANVAS, the BCPS learning management system.
 - ii. The bottom of that page provides specific information by grade level, designation, and open resources.
- Download and install up to five (5) copies of the Microsoft Office suite of applications **for free** at browardschools.com/Page/38732

4. What if my student(s) needs a computer?

- To support our students' learning, Broward County Public Schools will distribute loaner computer devices for students on Friday, March 20, from 8 AM until 2 PM.
- Parents/guardians should visit their child's school to check-out the devices. When picking up the computer devices, Parents/guardians will need to:
 - i. Present the student's online username and password or PIN.
 - ii. Complete a property pass and other forms prior to accepting a device at the child's school. To expedite the computer device distribution process, parents/guardians are encouraged to complete the required forms online. Visit browardschools.com/bcpspropertypass for the forms.

5. What if my home needs internet access?

- BCPS is working to ensure every family has internet access at their home. To support this outcome, the BCPS Office of Information & Technology is working closely with large-scale internet service providers to reduce or eliminate financial barriers for families.
- Comcast has expanded its Internet Essentials program for families that qualify for free or reduced lunch.
 - i. New eligible customers can sign up online via cell phone, tablet or computer at internetessentials.com. The website also includes the option to video chat with customer service agents in American Sign Language.
 - ii. As a second option, customers can contact the Internet Essentials call center. There are two dedicated phone numbers:
 1. 855-846-8376 for English
 2. 855-765-6995 for Spanish

6. What if my student requires Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services?

- During the period of March 16 – 27 when BCPS is closed, ESE services will be provided to students in District sponsored child care for medical personnel and first responder sites, as needed.
- Guidance, including resources and tips to support ESE students are provided in the ESE accordion link at the bottom of browardschools.com/learningnevercloses.
- Parents can always access their child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) online. BCPS sent a reminder of this feature to all parents who consented to being contacted by email or text. Parents who have not previously consented to having this feature, can email edplanconnect@browardschools.com to request this feature be enabled. Verification of identity procedures will apply.

7. What if my student requires Bilingual/ESOL services?

- During the period of March 16 – 27 when BCPS is closed, Bilingual/ESOL services will be provided to students in District sponsored child care for medical personnel and first responder sites, as needed.
- Guidance, including resources and tips to support Bilingual/ESOL students are provided in the Bilingual/ESOL accordion link at the bottom of browardschools.com/learningnevercloses.
- Communications are available in Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese.

8. What about required state testing, such as the Florida Standards Assessments and End-of-Course exams?

- All State testing has been cancelled for the 2019-20 school year.
- Graduation and grade level promotion decisions
- On March 17, 2020 Governor DeSantis made several announcements related to testing, school grades, and other educational matters.
- Graduation and grade level promotion decisions will be based on the District's local evaluation criteria as the State examination requirements have been waived.

9. What about Advanced Placement, Cambridge (AICE) and International Baccalaureate exams?

- It is too soon to definitively answer this question. Students will receive detailed guidance from their schools, when it is available.
- Each curriculum and assessment provider is issuing a statement on how it is modifying previously published guidance and calendars.
 - i. College Board on Advanced Placement (AP): bit.ly/2wcuJ70
 - ii. International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO): bit.ly/38R1XGC
 - iii. Cambridge International (AICE): bit.ly/38Up03b

10. What about SAT and ACT examinations that are scheduled later this year?

- College readiness exams are governed by the relevant vendor, either College Board or ACT. Each of these vendors provides information on test locations and whether the test administration will occur.
- College Board information is at: bit.ly/38SSkaf
- ACT, Inc. is at: act.org

11. What about dual enrollment courses at colleges and universities?

- Most of the public colleges and universities that have dual enrollment agreements with BCPS have moved to online learning until further notice.
- Each institution of higher learning is providing specific guidance to enrolled students.
 - i. Broward College: bit.ly/2Wiwev6
 - ii. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University: bit.ly/2Wsr5Rx
 - iii. Florida Atlantic University: bit.ly/33kUkad
 - iv. Florida International University: bit.ly/38ZDyid
 - v. University of Florida: bit.ly/2TWZC8V
- The two Workforce Dual Enrollment programs CTACE has with Broward College, Marine and Aviation, do not have a remote option. Broward College has announced that these hands-on workforce courses will be suspended until face-to-face classes resume. This will only impact South Broward High School and Miramar High School.
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) has moved most, but not all, of its courses online starting Wednesday, March 18. ERAU remains closed until then due to an extension of its spring break. BCPS and ERAU will provide guidance to students on Tuesday, March 17, regarding their dual enrollment courses.

12. What about my internship or apprenticeship course?

- While BCPS is closed, students will not participate in any form of internship or apprenticeship. This includes the Marine & Aviation Workforce Dual Enrollment (WDE) programs with Broward College and the Construction Pre-apprenticeship program with The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Institute. Participation in work-based learning experiences through Early Childhood Education programs and clinical experiences through Allied Health programs will also be suspended.
- Guidance on converting hands-on, in-person, work-based experiences into virtual learning through digital assignments, web production and/or telephone-based support will be provided to students on March 30, if schools are to remain closed beyond that date.

13. How can I request a transcript for a college application, scholarship or other purpose?

- High School students can request their transcript through Naviance. Naviance is accessed through the student's LaunchPad page at sso.browardschools.com. Details are provided in question number 3 above.

14. What about requirements for community service hours?

- It is too soon to determine if community service requirements for graduation will be impacted by the District's closure.
- Students who are able to provide community service through physical efforts or digital means should maintain a record of the time and the product/contribution for submittal upon return. The BCPS Service Learning log sheet is available at browardschools.com/studentvolunteerlogsheet.

15. How can young learners be supported (up to 5 years old)?

- BCPS has created a dedicated resource for parents at bit.ly/SupportingYoungLearners
- Independent resources have been made available by many BCPS partners. Many of these **resources are also embedded in the BCPS curriculum** in Canvas. Including:
 - i. Learn at Home from Scholastic, Inc.:
classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html
 - ii. At-Home Learning Support from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: bit.ly/3a5pxR2
 - iii. Daily classes from Khan Academy for Pre-K through 2nd Grade: bit.ly/3d1s5BP
 - iv. Storyline, books read to students by famous actors: storylineonline.net

16. Will the school year need to be extended?

- Schools will be closed until at least April 15, 2020.
- It is too soon to know if the school year will be extended beyond the currently scheduled date of Tuesday, June 2, 2020.
- Schools have been directed to prepare to be open until June 30, 2020.
- The decision on whether the school year would be extended will be made after the date of returning to school is determined, any changes to state laws and regulations, and with guidance from the Florida Department of Education.
- Each school has to comply with state requirements for offering instruction. The District has documented the number of hours of instruction offered through March 13 and will ensure compliance with state law.
- The state of Florida's requirements for grade level promotion and high school credit issuance are outlined below:
 - i. A minimum of 900 hours of bona fide instruction in each grade level for fourth grade and above.
 - ii. High schools on an approved block schedule require a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) hours of bona fide instruction for a full one-credit and sixty (60) hours of bona fide instruction for a half-credit.
 - iii. High schools on a traditional school schedule require a minimum of one hundred thirty-five (135) hours of bona fide instruction for a full one-credit and sixty-seven and one-half (67.5) hours of bona fide instruction for a half-credit.

Want more details? Other questions about academics?
Please email cao@browardschools.com

For more information and updates, visit browardschools.com/coronavirus.

**Please note information is always changing and
we will provide the latest updates as soon as possible.**

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