

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: October 30, 2020

Subject: Parent Assistance Resources, Teacher Professional Learning Day, Nutrition Update, and More

Thank you for your support and patience as we worked through the impact of power outages on virtual learning in the metro Atlanta area on Thursday and Friday. Given the widespread power outages on Thursday, we closed the District at 9 a.m.

With the ongoing uncertainty of when power and internet connectivity would be restored for many of our students and staff, we decided that Friday, October 30, would be a non-instructional day for students and a remote workday for teachers and other district staff. Students continue to have access to online tools for any self-guided work and we encourage students to use this time to complete homework or address incomplete assignments. We appreciate your flexibility and support as we worked through those challenges.

Health Data Checkpoint

We will provide our next monthly health data checkpoint at the Atlanta Board of Education meeting on Monday, November 2, beginning at 2:30 p.m. You can watch that meeting live or on-demand on the [Board's Facebook page](#). The District is exploring ways to support our highest-need learners and our low-incidence special needs population and our youngest students, including their potential return to some in-person services before January 2021. We will provide you with an update on these efforts soon.

Tips for Supporting Virtual Instruction

As a reminder, our Department of Instructional Technology has developed a [Parent Guidebook](#) to assist you with your child's remote learning needs. The guide is full of useful resources and helpful tips and reminders on everything from how to log into Zoom, how to access Infinite Campus, how to access eBooks and so much more! Take a minute to review it and be sure to bookmark this resource.

Here is a refresher on how you can support virtual learning at home:

- Create a classroom at home. You should have a place in your home dedicated to school. It's where you keep your child's assignments and devices.
- Have a routine. Help your child get ready for virtual school each day just as you would for in-person learning.
- Don't forget breakfast. Don't skip the most important meal of the day!
- Build blocks of time. Have your child complete one assignment at a time. Devote blocks of time each day to a specific lesson.

- It's OK to take breaks! Be sure there's time for your child to take breaks throughout the day.

Parent Assistance Resources – SOLVE Scholarships

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning provides essential services for many of our families as part of an initiative called Bright from the Start. The department's [Quality Rated tool](#) helps families find childcare in their area (or even along a commute) that has been evaluated by credentialed early childhood experts and identified as "high-quality." It also provides additional information about cost and services and even provides a toll-free referral hotline at 1-877-255-4254. Limited scholarships are available for children ages 0-4 through Quality Care for Children and PAACT: the Promise All Atlanta Children Thrive. If you are interested, please contact partnerdev@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

Many families of older children also need additional resources to pay for childcare. Again, the Bright from the Start initiative has another resource: SOLVE scholarships. These need-based scholarships provide financial assistance for families with students enrolled in a Georgia public school system primarily engaged in virtual learning. Scholarships support working families with children ages 5-12 (kindergarten through grade 6) by paying for care, supervision, and support during the school day while students are engaged in virtual learning. Learn more at www.decal.ga.gov/CAPS/Solve.aspx.

Tuesday, November 3 is Election Day/Teacher Professional Learning Day

Remember that students will not be in school this coming Tuesday, November 3. Not only is it Election Day (please vote!), it's a teacher professional learning day. Students will be out, but our employees will be working. All students will return for virtual learning on Wednesday, November 4.

Nutrition Update effective November 9

I want to update you on our Nutrition program. **Beginning Monday, November 9**, our Nutrition program will provide seven-day weekly meal kits (seven breakfast meals and seven lunch meals) each Monday from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. from one of 10 curbside pick-up locations or designated school bus routes. Here are those pickup locations:

- **Carver Cluster** - Carver High School, 55 McDonough Blvd.
- **Douglass Cluster** - Frederick Douglass High School, 225 Hamilton E. Holmes Dr. NW
- **Grady Cluster** - John Hope-Charles Walter Hill Elementary School, 112 Boulevard NE
- **Jackson Cluster** - Maynard Jackson High School, 801 Glenwood Ave. SE
- **Mays Cluster** - Jean Childs Young, 3116 Benjamin E. Mays DR SW
- **North Atlanta Cluster** - Bolton Academy, 2268 Adams Dr. NW and Garden Hills Elementary School, 285 Sheridan Dr. NE
- **South Atlanta Cluster** - South Atlanta High School, 800 Hutchens Rd. SE
- **Therrell Cluster** - Bunche Middle School, 1925 Niskey Lake Rd. SW
- **Washington Cluster** - Booker T. Washington High School, 45 Whitehouse Dr. SW

Remember on Monday, November 2 meals will continue to be delivered at bus stops and curbside from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement with us. Staying connected with our APS parents and families is very important to me, and I appreciate hearing from you. Always stay healthy and safe, wear a mask, wash your hands, and continue to practice social distancing. Have a great weekend and please be well.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring