



Committed to Excellence

**Ralph M. Iassogna**

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

6254 Main St., Trumbull, CT 06611

Tel: 203-452-4301 Fax: 203-452-4305

[riassogn@trumbullps.org](mailto:riassogn@trumbullps.org)

[www.trumbullps.org](http://www.trumbullps.org)

March 17, 2020

Dear Trumbull Public Educational Community,

In our continuing effort to keep you informed on COVID-19 crisis, please note the following information.

The Governor, the Commissioner of Education, and the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) held conference calls, with the Governor reaching more than 750 people. All were very proactive and enlightening. Some key points included:

- As of Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 41 tests came back positive
- The closing of Connecticut schools already has made a positive difference in slowing down the virus
- Connecticut is working very closely in coordinating efforts with New York and New Jersey
- The Governor has lowered the size of group activities from 250 to 50
- All restaurants and bars must be closed by 8:00 p.m. Only take-out and delivery are permitted.
- Costs related to the crisis will be very steep but the State anticipates a good portion to be reimbursed from FEMA
- Social distancing (3-6 feet) is a good way to minimize the possibility of contracting Coronavirus.
- All Connecticut schools will be closed until March 31<sup>st</sup> but that date may be extended

Furthermore, TPS may receive breakfast and lunch picked up at the curbside entrance in the front of THS. (140 meals have been distributed today.) Food Services Director Betty Sinko, Assistant to Director of Food Services Laurie Stolba and Dr. Jonathan Budd deserve a great deal of credit for implementing this program as quickly as they did.

Please review the eblast sent Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the communication from Dr. Budd and myself for specific details on implementation of the Distance Learning protocols which will be forwarded to you today. We anticipate Distance Learning to start no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**A Community Committed to Excellence**

One issue discussed needed further clarification – What learning activities will districts offer to its students? The Governor and Commissioner have promoted Supplemental Enrichment from the very beginning; some districts, primarily in Fairfield County (Wilton, Darien and Trumbull), chose to follow their direction and offer Supplemental Enrichment. At Monday’s press conference, a third option was introduced individual State-developed instructional learning packets were being developed. That information was reinforced at the combined State/District held press conference from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020.

Not 20 minutes later, Superintendents received an email from Commissioner Cardona changing his (and the Governor’s) position on Supplemental Enrichment and instructional learning packets mentioned earlier. Dr. Cardona mandated that all Connecticut districts “immediately provide continuity of educational opportunities and may end the school year at their regularly scheduled end date” (June 17). This position change, particularly following the content of the previous three conference calls, was unanticipated, especially since the last call from the Commissioner ended at 6:00 p.m. and the modifications were disseminated at 6:20 p.m. Nevertheless, we will follow the Commissioner’s directions, as we have done in the past, and move forward with the following:

- School will conclude in Trumbull on June 17, 2020
- No waivers will be processed any longer
- Through the superb efforts of Jonathan Budd, and Director of Digital Learning Christina Hefele, we are in a position to transition to the new Distance Learning Program, no later than Friday, March 20th
- Teachers will receive a separate email detailing the specific efforts necessary to implement this new initiative.

You should know that the key reasons for the change in the State’s position is guidance from the Federal government on Distance Learning and the input from the CDC that the closing of schools may be of a longer duration. Many thanks to Dr. Cardona who called me.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank you for your cooperation, feedback and support, as we navigate through uncharted waters.

Sincerely,



Ralph M. Iassogna  
Acting Superintendent