



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
www.esd401.org
Phone 509-925-8000
Fax 509-925-8025

March 17, 2020

Good afternoon ESD parents,

This unprecedented school closure has generated a number of questions and complications around providing traditional school services to our community.

Ellensburg School District's (ESD's) goal is to use our organization to provide stability and resources to our community during this time, and as you may have seen in last week's communication, we have plans to make sure students have meals, and we have been identifying ways to continue to support learning.

However, the reality is that we cannot continue to deliver educational curriculum in the way that many of you may have been anticipating. There are specific requirements issued by OSPI that districts must be able to guarantee if they are to provide instruction, even remotely, during a time of extended closure. If we cannot satisfy those requirements, we cannot continue moving forward through our curriculum. We are not alone in this struggle. Most districts across the state are also facing these same issues and finding it difficult to meet the mandates of distance learning. We are all trying to figure it out together, and we have a great collaboration across districts happening as we talk about these unprecedented times and how to best navigate them.

We are still working hard to determine whether or not we can overcome some of those roadblocks.

However, for now, during this time of extended closure, teachers will not be continuing to teach their course material. We are essentially "pressing pause" on the curriculum where we left off on Friday, March 13th with a plan to resume from that point when school is back in session.

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, kim.snider@esd401.org and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org, 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
www.esd401.org
Phone 509-925-8000
Fax 509-925-8025

We will be providing **optional** and **supplemental** support for students and families. These supports will help students do the following things:

- Review material they may have already covered but not yet mastered
- Practice and maintain skills that were already taught that are necessary for learning and proficiency in a particular subject
- Engage in enrichment activities
- Identify an area of interest in a subject area to research and explore.

Given our current restrictions, these learning activities are not required, nor will they be graded.

These learning opportunities are supplemental and designed to keep students connected with their teachers, the content, and the skills they need to resume school successfully. They are not meant to replace our core curriculum and instruction.

Our teachers are off work this week and next. Because teachers will be working a week longer this year (school will now get out June 19th), this week was swapped out for that week. This gave our leadership team time to come together and develop a plan. Next week is Spring Break. Teachers will return to work on March 30th. We'll need a few days with them to develop the materials that will be offered for optional activities.

This approach is in line with OSPI's guidelines and recommendations, it is aligned with what many districts are doing, and this will be the practice at all of our schools in the Ellensburg School District.

In the meantime we have a couple of places to start for resources:

- Click [here](#) for instructions on how to use Clever from home. Clever is our single login portal that allows you and your child access to many of our digital learning applications, all in one spot! This document also tells you a little bit about the apps you'll find in Clever. Please contact Jennifer Kuntz, Director of Teaching and Learning, with questions regarding the apps found in Clever: jennifer.kuntz@esd401.org
- Another resource for elementary students called "What's a Parent to Do" created by Dr. Sharon Walker, CWU professor, can be found [here](#). This document includes many creative ideas of activities to do with your child that do not require technology. We hope to post more resources for secondary students at a later date.
- Starting March 30th, you may contact your child's principal to arrange for a time to check out a Chromebook if your child does not already have a device at home.

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, kim.snider@esd401.org and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org, 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
www.esd401.org
Phone 509-925-8000
Fax 509-925-8025

We have students who are planning for graduation, preparing for AP exams, and worry about how this “pause in curriculum” may impact their learning.

- We are still waiting on updated guidance from OSPI regarding graduation requirements.
- Our district has been in touch with College Board to determine next steps around AP courses and exams.
- Part of our work will be to have teachers discuss their courses to identify essential content and what adjustments need to be made as we move students into the next sequential course.

Please know that our staff is committed to serving students and helping them get the best education possible. When making these decisions, the district and building leadership have worked to consider as many circumstances and factors as possible, and we believe that our approach is reasonable, sustainable, and equitable for all students.

Below are important updates concerning the next two weeks:

- **School Calendar:** Our tentative last day of school will now be Friday, June 19. This change adds five additional days past our currently scheduled last day of Friday, June 12. June 12 will become a full school day, and June 19 will become an early dismissal.
- **Parent/Staff Meetings:** Previously scheduled meetings for this week are being postponed at this time (for example IEP, 504, etc.) For future planning, we will be working on setting up teams to potentially host IEP type meetings via Zoom.
- **Extra-curricular:** All extra curricular activities have been canceled during the school closure. We understand there are many unknowns with regard to activities, particularly for our seniors and plans for these important activities will be communicated at a later time. We are currently waiting for further direction regarding high school requirements from OSPI.
- **Student support and wellness:** Please review [Coping with COVID-19 Related Stress](#). Other sites include the Department of Health (DOH) at <https://www.doh.wa.gov>.
- **Nutrition and Meals:** “Grab and Go” services for meal distribution will be provided from the north side of Morgan Middle School, between 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, during the week of March 16-March 20 and during the weekdays of March 30th through April 24th.

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, kim.snider@esd401.org and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org, 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
www.esd401.org
Phone 509-925-8000
Fax 509-925-8025

- **During Spring Break, March 23-27, families will need to go to the Fish Food Bank Pantry at 804 Elmview Road; Ellensburg (For Hopesource: Dial a Bus).** FISH has reorganized operations to accommodate the “social distancing” rule recommended by Kittitas County Department of Public Health. Pantry clients are not shopping as usual, but will receive pre-packaged boxes of a variety of food. Anyone who is coming in need of lunches for children can let the volunteer know at check-in, and the Pantry staff will do their best to add “kid friendly” food to the boxes to help during the Break.
- To register for the Pantry, one adult in the household is asked to show ID. If anyone prefers to get food and not show an ID, FISH can still help but cannot include government donated food in those boxes. There will still be a variety of food available. Once registered, anyone can come twice a month for food.

Thank you again for your patience during these trying times. We desire to serve our students and staff to the best of our capacity during these school closures. I am grateful for our amazing ESD Team, and we will continue to work through the complexities of our current situation with success.

Sincerely,

Jinger Haberer (On behalf of our ESD Team), Superintendent

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, kim.snider@esd401.org and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org, 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.