

All documents pertaining to the April 16, 2020 School Committee meeting are imbedded within the [Agenda](#)

# CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**To develop students who are competent and creative thinkers, curious and confident learners, and compassionate citizens.**

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## **Superintendent's Report School Committee Remote Meeting of Thursday, April 16, 2020**

**Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools**

### **COVID-19 Updates**

Please visit our district website to view all of the [BlackBoard messages](#) shared to date.

On April 7, the negotiations subcommittee of the School Committee reached a new agreement with the CTA that ended Phase 1 of the school closures and launched us into Phase 2. This agreement will carry us through the remainder of the closure and the reopening of our schools.

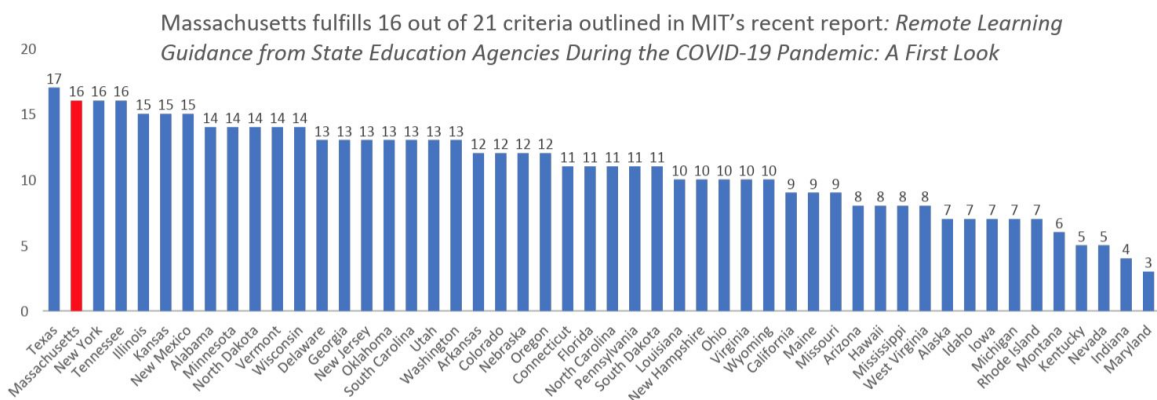
The most significant shift of Phase 1 into Phase 2 is from *optional* learning opportunities for students to *expected* student engagement in remote learning experiences. Within this shift, we remain committed to staying connected to each and every child in the Canton Public Schools and doing everything we can to provide all students with what they need in a very different context - from food and devices to ongoing connections with school staff and peers, to learning and feedback that maintains and promotes student growth.

Also due to our schools being closed, April vacation is canceled and remote learning will continue through next week (Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24, 2020). What is usually the first day of April vacation, Monday, April 20 is a state holiday - Patriots' Day; therefore, no remote learning and communication will be provided on that day. With this change, ***the last day of school for the 2019-2020 school year will be Tuesday, June 23, 2020.***

MIT Ranks US States in Remote Learning Guidance: As we wrestle with a vastly different context of school during COVID-19, we continue to be guided by our Commissioner of Education, Jeff Riley. Through his work with multiple stakeholders, including the leaders of state organizations for the two teachers' unions, school committees, parents and superintendents, Commissioner Riley distributed the document, [Remote Learning Recommendations During](#)

[COVID-19 School Closures](#). State-level documents like this one were created and disseminated across the country. The Teaching Systems Lab at MIT conducted a review of all of these documents and rated them based on [21 criteria](#). Massachusetts ranked second in the country receiving a score of “16.” The [MIT overview of the report](#) provides some detail, while the full report may be found [here](#).

### Massachusetts “ranks” second in nation on remote learning guidance using criteria from MIT’s Teaching Systems Lab



Source: MIT Teaching Systems Lab  
<https://tsl.mit.edu/covid19/>  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F543P17R4SgHt\\_19on7tkUg\\_357RE2wLEiv\\_S97gH0/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F543P17R4SgHt_19on7tkUg_357RE2wLEiv_S97gH0/edit#gid=0)

**MCAS:** After receiving waivers from the federal and state governments regarding the requirements for annual testing of student performance, Commissioner Riley canceled MCAS for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year across the grade levels. The Commissioner has not yet rendered a decision regarding competency determination for high school graduation. I will inform you of the decision once it is made public. Administrators at Canton High School continue to work with students for whom this may be an issue.

**Canton Community Television (CCTV) Zoom interview:** On April 9 I was interviewed by Ms. Tanya Willow of CCTV. Link [here](#). The community is served well by Ms. Willow and CCTV and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

### Department Updates

**Technology and Digital Learning:** The Technology and Digital Learning team have been quite busy over the last few weeks. To date, they have distributed close to 500 Chromebooks to students and staff. The tech team is continuously updating our CPS Teacher Training and Resource Center. This Google site was created to have a single site where teachers can go for training, resources, student data privacy updates or digital/online app suggestions. In collaboration with the Teaching and Learning team, this site is ever-expanding and we believe has been a terrific resource for our teachers. Our team is actively working to support educators, families, and students; collectively the tech team answers and responds to well over 100 emails daily. The staff holds drop-in sessions for questions and schedules and one to one meetings for anyone in need of support.

Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Julie Shore, Director of Technology and Digital Learning, the Central Office team has created a twice-weekly newsletter called the *CPS Bulldog Bulletin*. The Bulldog Bulletin's purpose is to collectively and effectively communicate with our staff to provide news and announcements, give resources, and to share the incredible work being done within Canton Public Schools. Each Central Office department has a section in the bulletin, it is truly a collaborative venture. The Bulldog Bulletin goes out every Monday and Thursday afternoon, with today being our 4th edition.

**Food Service:** Wednesday, April 8, we began offering both breakfast and lunch pick up at Canton High School, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and through van delivery to several locations. On Mondays, we provide 2 breakfast items and 2 lunch items for each student. On Wednesdays, we provide 3 breakfast items and 3 lunch items for each student. This affords breakfast and lunch items Monday-Friday for all students participating in the program.

We made this change for two reasons: to increase the number of meals a student will have each day and to reduce the number of interactions for all individuals involved while the virus is approaching the peak stage in Massachusetts.

During pick up and drop off, everyone maintains social distancing and preventative measures.

**Teaching and Learning:** As we move to remote learning, teachers are sharing assignments that are expected to be completed. Teachers are providing online and offline learning, as we are very aware of screen time, for a total amount of time that amounts to approximately half a regular school day (on average 3 hours). Ms. Rooney and Ms. Shore created and maintain a website that shares resources for teachers that can be helpful for student work, training videos to help teachers learn new technologies that support remote learning, and professional learning opportunities for all staff. The website will continue to be updated throughout the closure.

**Student Services:** Special Educators, 504 Coordinators, and English Language Teachers are creating Individualized Remote Learning Plans for students on IEPs requiring accommodations and/or modifications to their learning environment in order to access their educational opportunities. These plans are being developed for students attending Canton Public Schools, Collaboratives, or Private Special Education Schools. In addition, 504 Coordinators are reviewing accommodation plans and adjusting them to remote learning environments as needed and English Language Teachers have written a version of remote learning plans for students learning to speak English. All of these plans are being worked on collaboratively with parents.

### **Update on Hiring Processes for Administrators**

**Director of Student Services:** The Interview Committee met online and agreed on candidates to move forward for me to consider as finalists. I will decide on and name finalists at the conclusion of my deep review of the candidates recommended to me. The finalists will be made public and the next steps in the process will be outlined at that time. Given the current limitations of a typical day in Canton for the finalists, I will be announcing virtual opportunities for multiple stakeholders to engage with the candidates. As you'll recall, at the end of each session, participants are encouraged to fill out a feedback form and share their thoughts with me. We will create an anonymous feedback form for everyone to complete. I will also share a timeline with

you as the process becomes more clear. Thank you to the members of the Interview Committee for their patience and perseverance and Ms. Rooney for her facilitation as we continue with this important new hire.

CHS Principal: Prior to the school closing and with the guidance and facilitation of Ms. Shore, we held two parent forums on March 9 and two staff forums on March 10. We sent out a survey to families with students currently at CHS and GMS, CHS staff, and CHS students. The purpose of the survey was to identify effective leadership qualities that our stakeholders would want in the next Principal and to identify areas of strength and areas of improvement at Canton High School that we would want the next Principal to continue to work on. We had over 200 touchpoints with stakeholders from these activities and that has helped to provide a lens as we enter the interview phase. The Interview Committee met for an orientation on March 12, which coincidentally was our last day at school. The search was put on hold and we are now re-engaging in the process. The Interview Committee, made up of educators, building administrations, central office administrators, parents, School Committee Chair Kristin Mirliani, and students, will gather virtually and begin to review candidates to decide whom to interview. We are excited to re-engage in this process. I will keep you informed of the timeline.

JFK Principal: In addition to the Director of Student Services search process, our Director of Teaching and Learning, Ms. Rooney, is leading the process for our next Principal of the JFK Elementary School. The process was ready to begin right before the closing of schools. The parent and staff forums were scheduled but then needed to be postponed. Initially, we received many responses to the Google survey seeking information from stakeholders about the next Principal, but due to the interrupted process, we will resend the survey as we restart the process virtually. We will be checking in with the parents and staff members who indicated that they were interested in participating on the Interview Committee to confirm that they are still able to participate in a virtual interview process. Thank you to Ms. Nichola Gallagher for her offer to participate as the School Committee representative. Once we have the full Interview Committee established, we will proceed with screening applicants and setting up virtual interviews. As stated earlier, we are excited to re-engage in this process. I will keep you informed of the timeline.