

Text of Superintendent Hite's March 23 letter to District staff:

Dear Colleagues,

The Pennsylvania Department of Education announced today that all Pennsylvania schools, including all schools in our District, will remain closed through at least [April 6, 2020](#) as a result of COVID-19 (coronavirus) response efforts. School closures could be extended further if the coronavirus situation continues to progress.

The guidance we are receiving from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and U.S. Department of Education is ever evolving and our responses will evolve as more information becomes available. In the midst of this uncertainty, staff district-wide have been working hard to support the most urgent needs of our students and families, and to identify new ways to do so while schools remain closed. Here are some examples of what we are doing together:

- developing a remote learning experience for all students, along with a plan to provide student devices to ensure equity.
- organizing virtual training and resources so that more teachers can stay connected with students using Google Classroom.
- creating and maintaining a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage that will launch tomorrow, and will provide parents, families and staff with answers to the questions we all have as quickly as they are available.
- developing a new set of K-12 Learning Guides (LGs) which will be available for students online beginning Wednesday, March 25, and at all 49 School District grab-and-go meal sites starting Thursday, March 26.
- working to clarify the supports our teachers can provide to students to keep them engaged and excited about learning everyday.
- creating and staffing 10 hotlines in multiple languages Monday through Thursday mornings from [9:30 a.m.](#) – [11:30 a.m.](#) as well as managing a new [covid19info@philasd.org](mailto:covid19info@philasd.org) email address where anyone can submit questions for reply.
- ensuring that payroll is processed accurately and on time so that all employees are being paid.

Employees from around the District are working tirelessly and I am proud of the perseverance and commitment you are demonstrating every day.

**Thank you** for your leadership as we navigate these unprecedented times together. Remember, we all play a role in sharing accurate information about these efforts. Make sure to visit [www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org) regularly for updates on this work.

Please take care and stay safe!

William R. Hite Jr., Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
The School District of Philadelphia