

Ware Public School District

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: March 16, 2020

Ware Public School District is enacting a closure of school from March 16 - April 7, 2020 and school-related activities.

The information detailed in this document is intended to provide guidance for this period. It is important to note that this is a fluid situation and so this document will be regularly updated and modified and it is recommended that you revisit frequently for the latest updates and information.

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Frequently Asked Questions Student Learning

Q.	Are the days during the three week closure counted as “school days?”
A.	No. These are non-school days. These days will essentially be considered a three week school closing period (March 16-April 6). There is no expectation of online learning or for the provision of educational services during this period. It is important to note that the school year will not extend beyond the 185th day (June 18, 2020) at this time.
Q.	What resources are available for teachers, parents, and students to enrich learning during this period of closure?
A.	We are continuing to compile resources and links for all students and will share that information here. Students and Staff are encouraged to continue to access resources through the Ware Public School website and/or the Clever Portal https://clever.com/in/wareps/
Q.	Given a three week closure, what happens with the MCAS test for students?
A.	At this time we will not be in school during the previously scheduled MCAS window. We expect to hear more from DESE in the near future on this topic as a great many schools are in the same position.
Q.	What is going to happen in regards to graduation?
A.	As this situation is ever changing we will have to wait until April 7th to make decisions based on the directions provided by the state at that time.
Q.	What are my responsibilities as a special education teacher/related service provider, for the students on my caseload during this three week closure?
A.	The expectation that has been communicated by the Department of Education, is that you are checking in with families during this school closure. This can be done through phone calls and email correspondence. You should use your professional judgment and your knowledge of your students to determine the frequency for which these check ins should occur. For some students, once per week might be appropriate, and for other students, checking in more frequently might be warranted. If you feel as though you need guidance on this, please consult with Jessica Bolduc, Director of Special Education at jbolduc@ware.k12.ma.us .

	<p>The goal is that this communication can help to minimize the disruption for these students to the extent possible. You can also use this time during the closure to complete paperwork, IEP writing, meeting invitations, etc, so that these are all set to be sent out upon re-opening of the district.</p>
Q.	I am a related service provider to students on an IEP. What are my responsibilities during this three week closure?
A.	The expectation is that you provide suggested activities that can be done at home for your students, and share this with them through checking in with families. This can be done either by phone or through email.
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Frequently Asked Questions Special Education

Frequently Asked Questions Special Education	
Q.	My child is on an IEP or 504 Plan, and I am concerned about the implications of the closure on my child’s educational progress.
A.	Upon the conclusion of the closure, and the re-opening of the district, IEP teams will be available to convene to determine what type of impact the closure had on your child’s educational progress, and make individualized team based decisions as needed.
Q.	My child is on an IEP and receives “services only” (i.e. speech/Language counseling etc.). Will my child receive these services during the closure?
A.	Services will not be provided during the closure, consistent with how this is handled on snow days.
Q.	Will my child’s special education liaison, related service provider, and Director of Special Education be available if I have a question during this two week closure?
A.	Yes, special education teachers, related services providers, and the Director of Special Education will be available to assist with specific questions as needed. You can expect a “check in” from your child’s liaison, in the form of a phone call or email during this time as well.
Q.	I have made a request for an Intial Evaluation on or after March 16th. What should I expect?
A.	Any timelines associated with an initial evaluation request received on March 16th or during the two week closure, will be processed using day one of the timeline as the date the district re-opens. For example, if the district re-opens on April 7th, that would count as day one associated with the timeline for an initial evaluation request.
Q.	I am looking for general tips on how to support my child during this two week closure.
A.	Please see the Ware Public Schools website for information and resources on how to support your child during the closure.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Activities, Events, and Athletics

Q.	Are there any athletic, club, or activity events happening during this period of closure?
A.	No. All school-related events are canceled during this period.
Q.	Are Spring Sports delayed?
A.	Yes. After much discussion, the MIAA BOD decided to delay the start of the 2020 spring season to March 30, 2020 . Respecting the fluidity of this situation, this decision will be revisited prior to March 30.
Q.	How will the delays and cancellations impact stipends and payments for coaches and advisors?
A.	For activities and athletic events/seasons we will need to revisit what and how those earning stipends will be paid. More information will be forthcoming following further discussions.
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Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Q.	How will the days of a three week closure count against school days?
A.	Ware Public School District will be in school through June 17, 2020 which is our regularly scheduled 185th day.
Q.	Currently the schools are closed through April 6, 2020. Will this be extended? How will we be notified?
A.	Ware Public School District will continue to monitor this fluid situation and will make the best determinations in the best interest of the students and staff. Information will continue to be provided via Blackboard Connect, on our website, through email, and on all major news outlets.
Q.	What will happen to April vacation (April 20-24)?
A.	At this time the April vacation week is scheduled as planned. However, given these unexpected school closures we may revisit the need for additional school days and this may be revisited in the near future with all impacted employees.
Q.	Will there be access to any school buildings during the March 16 - April 7, 2020 closure?
A.	At this time all buildings are closed and only essential personnel will have access.
Q.	Will food services be available for students that qualify for free and reduced lunch?
A.	Ware Public School District will be providing breakfast and lunch Grab and Go style daily between 11:00 am to 1 pm. Please see our Meal Service Plan here: (place link) . Please contact Jeff Nicholas at jnicholas@ ware.k12.ma.us with questions.

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Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Resources and Support

Q. Should everyone be practicing social distancing?

A. Yes. “Now, we ask that you do your part. Creating social gatherings during the school outage will minimize the impact of closing school. Carefully consider the necessity of being together. This is not a vacation. It is an extreme measure to allow for social distancing so the virus is not spread. Not being exposed to the virus is the best way not to get sick. Please refer to this CDC webpage for other recommendations to prevent illness: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>”

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