



May 28, 2020

Dear Excel Families,

These extraordinary last few months have tested all of us in so many ways, and I just want to say how grateful I am to you, to your children, to Excel's teachers and staff, and to the communities where we live for showing such courage, generosity and resilience. We are getting through this together.

Below are a few updates and reminders related to the end of the school year and resources that we are providing - including meal distribution through the summer. As always, if you have further questions or requests please reach out to Excel's Benefit Access Team at 857.256.2459.

Excel Academy Reminders:

The last day of this school year will be Friday, June 12, 2020. Teachers remain available from 12-2 PM daily, Monday through Friday, through June 12. In addition, all advisors are reaching out to contact families or students at least once per week to check in on how they are doing. If your student has problems with his/her Chromebook, please ask your child to contact his/her advisor.

Please take a look at our Excel Counseling website and Instagram (Excel_Be_Well). We have created this space to support students and families during the extended closure. Here you can contact your school counselor and access a variety of resources including information on managing stress, mental health and well being, and self-care. <https://sites.google.com/view/excelcounseling/home?authuser=1>

Meal Distribution Schedule: Excel Academy will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch through August 31. Families can now pick up multiple days of meals at Excel Academy Chelsea and Excel Academy Charter High School. Our schedule through June 26 is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00am – 12:00pm. In June we will announce our schedule for July and August. If you need help locating food providers closer to your home, please reach out to Estevan Puerta at 617-466-9384 (Estevan speaks English and Spanish).

- View additional food distribution sites in Chelsea here: <http://healthychelsea.org/covid-19-food-resource-guide/>.
- View additional food distribution sites in Boston here: www.bostonpublicschools.org/coronavirus.

Excel Academy's 2019 District Report Card Released: Every year, each public school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. The report card provides multiple measures of school performance, including information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, and student learning opportunities. Excel Academy's 2019 report card is available: [Here](#) . You can select your preferred language from the drop down menu at the top right of the report card. Please note when viewing the report card that the information reported is the same for Excel



Academy as a school and as a district. Additional Reading is available in [Spanish](#) & [English](#) to help understand the report card.

P-EBT Update: Non-DTA families will start to receive notices and P-EBT cards in the mail. The notices - addressed to the eligible child - will arrive prior to the cards. The P-EBT cards are mailed by Conduent (the MA EBT vendor) and will be mailed from their processing center in Indiana, while DTA notices are mailed locally in MA. If you receive a notice, please save it because it includes your child's P-EBT case number. This case number is necessary in order to PIN the P-EBT card. For reference here is a copy of what the notice will look like, [see here](#).

If your family receives a card but not a notice, or if you have recently moved and do not think the school has your new address, call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333) for assistance. Please also contact your Excel Academy Operations team to update your family's address in PowerSchool.

Additional Information

I'd like to remind you to visit our website: www.excelacademy.org/coronavirusupdates/ for the latest updates and a variety of resources. You can also visit the Chelsea (www.chelseama.gov/coronavirusupdates) and Boston websites (<https://www.boston.gov/news/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-boston>). Below are reminders of other important information.

Please be safe, and thank you as always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Owen".

CEO, Excel Academy Charter Schools



What to do if you are sick?

Your doctor is the best person to speak with if you believe you may have been exposed to or may be sick from COVID-19. There is an extensive healthcare network in place, and your doctor is an important part of it. If you are experiencing coronavirus symptoms including **fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, muscle aches, shortness of breath or loss of smell**, your doctor may advise that you get tested. You may also contact these trusted healthcare organizations in the community.

- **East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC):**
 - **COVID-19 testing is now available for anyone at EBNHC, even if you do not have symptoms.** Call 617-569-5800 to register. Tests are available 7 days per week at the drive-through at Suffolk Downs, the walk-in clinic at 79 Paris St., or the emergency department if you are sick.
 - You can also call your primary care physician at EBNHC to request mobile routine vaccinations or prescription delivery.
- **Massachusetts General Hospital Chelsea (MGH Chelsea):** Call 617-724-7000.
 - Information in English: www.massgeneral.org/news/coronavirus
 - Information in Spanish: www.massgeneral.org/es/coronavirus

Testing and treatment for COVID-19 related symptoms is available at EBNHC and MGH Chelsea regardless of immigration status, health insurance, or ability to pay.

Local Financial Support and Community Assistance

Your child's advisor can help connect your family with a range of community resources. You or your child can contact their advisor if you are facing challenges related to food, housing, and other issues. There are also a number of trusted community groups who are providing direct assistance to families in East Boston and Chelsea.

Chelsea Collaborative: www.chelseacollab.org/

- The One Chelsea Fund will be providing direct financial support to Chelsea families who have been impacted by COVID-19, and the Chelsea Collaborative is one of the organizations helping get money to families. They are also looking for volunteers to help deliver food and other necessities, for those who have the ability to do so.

Mutual Aid East Boston: whatsupeastie.com/coronavirusresponse/mutualaideastie/

- Connecting individuals to existing networks of support in the East Boston community to maximize mutual aid.

United Way: unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/get-help/

- Individuals who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis can find assistance through United Way's 2-1-1 service.

City Life Vida Urbana: www.clvu.org/covid19

- Call the hotline (English 617-934-5006; Spanish 617-397-3773) for assistance with housing resources.

