



COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF ENGAGEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Update for September 18, 2020

Email the CCS Department of Engagement at Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us.

ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT FOR START OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR:

As the largest school district in the state, it is important to keep track of our annual student enrollment data. As of this Monday, September 14, we have 48,704 students enrolled in Columbus City Schools.

This total includes 45,332 students engaged in remote learning and 3,372 students engaged in our new self-paced CCS Digital Academy.

When we closed registration for the Digital Academy on August 1, we had more than 5,800 students enrolled. Since then, many of our families have chosen to move their students from the self-paced Digital Academy to our remote learning model with their home schools.

VIRTUAL LEARNING OUTREACH EFFORT AIMS TO RE-CONNECT WITH STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH PHONE CALL:

While the majority of Columbus City Schools students have been successful logging in to our completely virtual new school year, this 'new normal' has required quite a bit of adjustment at home for many of our families.

And for a few of those families, the temporary loss of in-person learning has left them with a sense of disconnection. That's why Columbus City Schools is making an extra effort to re-connect with our families through our new Virtual Learning Outreach initiative.

A team of CCS employees - mostly our school-based food service and custodial staff - will be engaging with families each school day through direct phone calls to home.

These cafeteria teams and custodians are typically some of the first people who our students see every day, and their informal engagement during a normal school year is an important part of building our overall school community. This effort continues that, even in our virtual time.

At the core of this effort is connection. Staff members will call and connect human-to-human with our families. Many calls will just be a friendly "hello and how are you doing" type of interaction. Others may be more complicated.

The VLO staff will have answers to share to the most frequently asked questions (like how to log in to a Google Classroom or Parent Portal). If parents share that they are struggling to get their student connected or engaged in learning, we'll connect families with building principals or other District support teams so we can help address the barriers at home.



FAMILIES TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF FUEL UP FOOD EFFORTS TO PROVIDE FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH:

Columbus City Schools continues to provide an unprecedented level of food service for our families during this COVID crisis.

Just this past Wednesday, our Food Services team distributed nearly a quarter-of-a-million meals to Columbus families. At just one of our food sites, Columbus Global Academy, we distributed 15,000 meals in one day.

And parents seem to appreciate that we've added an early evening pick-up time, with most of our meals handed out between 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Combined with our first week of Fuel Up Food Service, we've provided more than 361,000 meals to local children and teens. No other district in Central Ohio can match that number or level of convenience for families.

And that represents hundreds-of-thousands of healthy breakfasts and lunches that families didn't have to worry about for their children as they adjusted to our new all-virtual learning environment.

Every Wednesday (and only on Wednesdays), Columbus City Schools offers 44 Fuel Up Food Sites at schools across the city, where families can grab-and-go 5-day meal packs for each child under the age of 18 to cover breakfast and lunch for a week.

CCS families have been assigned a location to pick up their students' meals based on their home address in Infinite Campus (not necessarily the same school in which they attend).

However, families may choose to visit a different Fuel Up Food Site - perhaps one closer to work or where children will be staying during the day. Simply share the reason for the change with the cafeteria staff at the food site you choose to visit. The student(s) do not need to be present for family members to pick up food.

A map of the Fuel Up Food Site locations can be found at www.ccsok.us/Page/8603.

The 5-day meal packs are shelf stable - items such as apple sauce, cereal, fruit cups, cheese sticks, raisins, juice box, veggie cups, and granola that do not require refrigeration - to assure food safety. If desired, students will have the option of taking a 5-day supply of milk (which would require refrigeration).

To make it easier for families to come to the schools, the pick-ups take place every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

This Fuel Up Food Service is open to ALL families in our Columbus community (not just families registered in CCS). Let's make sure every child in our city has access to healthy food, so please share this information.

SAFE RE-START TO CITY LEAGUE SPORTS FOR ATHLETES:

Game on for the Columbus City League! Many of our fall sports teams have re-started their games and competitions this week, including cross country, golf, football, soccer, girls tennis, and volleyball.

In order to safely hold these contests, Columbus City Schools has implemented procedures that align with sport-specific guidelines as outlined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Among the ways we are keeping students and staff safe:

- All players, coaches, team personnel, and officials must conduct daily COVID-19 symptom assessments. Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- Athletes and coaches must wear face coverings when not on the field or court. Face coverings are required for all game personnel.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible for athletes while engaged in active play.
- Athletes are not to share water bottles.
- Participants must maintain 6 feet of social distancing when not on the field or court.
- The visiting team is to arrive dressed in partial or full uniforms and should plan to leave the facility in partial or full uniforms.

Unfortunately, spectators will be limited to two tickets per student-athlete participating in the contest. No general admission tickets will be sold. And all spectators will be required to wear face coverings while in the facility.

The complete details of our athletics health and safety plan are available on our website and have been provided to principals, athletic directors, and coaches.

To see the updated schedule for fall sports - including the high school football schedule - and the full gameday guidelines and procedures, go to www.ccsok.us/athletics.

MORE COMMUNITY PARTNERS STEP UP TO HOST LEARNING EXTENSION CENTERS FOR CCS FAMILIES:

More of our community partners are stepping up to host “Learning Extension Centers” - safe, adult-supervised spaces where students can feel supported while learning virtually and parents can feel comforted knowing that their child is in a secure, welcoming environment during the day.

At these Learning Extension Centers, students have access to the internet, learning devices, and school supplies to assist them in remote learning (if they need more than the Chromebook the District is supplying).

Staff at the centers will be able to assist students in accessing our CCS Remote Learning platforms. In many LEC locations, students will be able to get meals and “after-school” type activities.



Remember, Learning Extension Centers are not run by Columbus City Schools, but we are working to connect families and schools with LEC's closest to them. We are also providing training to LEC staff so they know how to help students (and parents) on getting online and into our Remote Learning platforms.

The Department of Engagement is also connecting the LECs with some of our other community partners - such as The Ohio State University, Franklin County Job and Family Service, I Know I Can, and City Year - to provide additional supports for students and families who visit the centers.

We keep updating the list of Learning Extension Centers at www.ccsok.us/reopening. Just click on the "Learning Extension Centers" tab and search for LEC's by region. Families are also encouraged to ask their student's principal about centers in their neighborhoods.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOCUS ON TEEN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:

Supported by a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Columbus City Schools is building upon its partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital to expand school-based teen healthcare services.

The partnership effort - which focuses on reproductive health education and preventing unplanned pregnancies - also includes The Ohio State University, the City of Columbus, and CelebrateOne, a community collaborative aimed at reducing the infant mortality rate.

During the three-year project, 7,000 seventh and eighth grade students are expected to be impacted. This work builds on the existing collaboration between our partners, which includes 11 school-based health clinics in CCS and teen reproductive health education.

This grant expands the "Get Real" curriculum, which is an evidence-based, comprehensive reproductive health and teen pregnancy prevention curriculum that emphasizes social and emotional skills as key components of healthy relationships and responsible decision making.

The grant will also fund the implementation of parent programs and summer programs, expansion of mobile health services to more middle schools, and the addition of another school-based health clinic - bringing the total to 12 clinics in our District.

YOUR INPUT ON SCHOOL SAFETY IS STILL NEEDED:

There is still time to submit your feedback on the District's current safety and school climate efforts. The information we receive from the community will help inform the Safe Schools Working Group, which will present a recommendation to the Board of Education this fall.

You can take the Safe School Community Survey by visiting <http://bit.ly/CCSSchoolSafety> and watch the first Safe Schools Community Session by visiting <https://youtu.be/Nflzrb8mgVA>. Your feedback is important as Columbus City Schools reimagines what safety looks like in the 21st century.

HANDY NUMBERS FOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

We've created a special section on the Columbus City Schools website with links to lots of information on the new school year. Visit www.ccschools.us/reopening for regular updates. Below are several numbers to keep handy if you (or the families you serve) have questions:

- **Technology Help Desk: 614-365-8425**
Call this number if you have questions about technology - such as trouble with a student's Chromebook, accessing Clever, or logging into an email account.
- **Health Services: 614-365-8524**
Call this number if you have question about COVID-19, need information from a school nurse, or are unsure about vaccination information.
- **Translation Services: 614-365-8802**
Call if you need help accessing information in another language. Below are specific numbers to our District top-five non-English languages:
 - Spanish: 614-365-5118
 - Somali: 614-365-8972
 - Nepali: 614-365-3105
 - French: 614-365-5327
 - Arabic: 614-365-6920
- **Customer Relations: 614-365-8888**
Call this number if you have not been able to connect with your school principal or main office or need assistance connecting with other departments across the District.

SHARE YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION UPDATES:

Please share this Community Update with the families and stakeholders you serve.

During this historic school year, it's important we communicate as much as possible to as many people as possible - in as many languages as possible - about the steps being taken in Columbus City Schools to support our students and engage our families.

Please share your updates with us at Engage@columbus.k12.oh.us.