

WPS Weekly Update-May 18, 2020

Guidance from the CSDE, WPS Information and Resources

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Message from Commissioner Cardona Re. Social Distancing and Face Coverings

I understand the warmer weather, the length of class cancelations and discussion about reopening may make practicing social distancing frustrating for some, particularly children. However, I urge adults to serve as role models in successfully following applicable health and safety advice. The [CDC Guidance](#) continues to recommend increased health and safety measures, including that all of us “keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering. . .” The Governor’s orders currently in place reinforce these rules by continuing to limit any social and recreational gatherings and requiring face coverings for the majority of people when in a public place where proper social distancing is not possible.

Update for Parents and Families: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program

If you have questions about the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program and potential P-EBT benefits, please visit www.ct.gov/snap. If, after visiting this website, you still have questions, contact the CT Department of Social Services Benefit Center directly at 1-855-626-6632 and follow the prompts.

Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge

Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz formally announced the *Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge*, which encourages 3rd through 12th grade students to design socially-conscious apps, websites and/or computer programs that:

- *Defeat the spread of the disease*

- *Aid local or global communities, or*
- *Encourage or inform others*

COVID-19 is presenting challenges unlike we have ever seen. We have all had to find meaningful ways to engage and connect from a distance. We know some students face barriers during this time of learning due to lack of access. This challenge will allow students to creatively address the many challenges arising due to the pandemic by:

- Applying critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Working collaboratively
- Gaining a heightened understanding of the uses of computer technology

For more information and to submit ideas, please go to <https://www.skills21.org/ltgovcovid-19challenge>. Submissions will be accepted until May 29, 2020.

Resource for Families- The Three Rs of Learning from Home

As parents navigate this challenging time, advice on Routines, Relationships and Reassurances may help. In the video, [The Three Rs of Learning from Home](#), parents, teachers, students and members of CSDE share some thoughts on helping children learn from home.