



# Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: (508) 854-8400 Fax: (508) 854-8484

[www.akfcs.org](http://www.akfcs.org)

## Distance Learning Plan

April 3, 2020

Dear Abby Kelley Families:

The **AKF Distance Learning Plan** has been developed using the guidance and recommendations from the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE). These recommendations are guided by three core beliefs:

Health, safety and wellness are our top priorities.

Schools should be mindful of equity concerns and work to reduce the potential disproportionate impact on our most vulnerable populations.

We are committed to maintaining connections between school staff and students and helping all students continue their learning.

For more details on the Commissioner and DESE's recommendations, we have posted their memo on the Abby Kelley [Website](#).

Abby Kelley's expectations for Distance Learning are that **academic work be specific to the level of the student**. As a district, we continue to work on students' reading, writing and math skills specifically to reinforce skills already taught this year, while encouraging students to apply and deepen those skills, to the extent possible.

### Elementary School

We expect **15 minutes of i-Ready Reading** and **15 minutes of i-Ready Math along with daily fact practice**. The software is adaptive and aligned with specific Massachusetts learning standards. Instruction is differentiated based on students' performance on previous lessons. Teachers will view the amount of time students spend on lessons each week and monitor progress. Teachers will contact families weekly to provide feedback on students' work based on i-Ready reports available to teachers.

Also, at the Elementary School, teachers are providing additional websites and creative activities which are optional.

### Middle School

All students will be using IXL each day to work in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students in grade 4 & 5 are asked to work for 20 minutes and students in grades 6 & 7 are asked to work for 30 minutes.

*Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness and all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.*



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**All students should be reading 30 minutes a day and keeping a reading journal.** Teachers in these subject areas continue to assign learned skills for students to practice and maintain. Within their Google Classroom teachers are posting enrichment and extra assignments, including virtual field trips and videos. Additionally, specials teachers are sharing ideas within their Google Classrooms; physical fitness ideas, coding websites, art challenges and music.

Assignments will not be graded in the traditional sense. Students are receiving feedback on their work through Google Classroom and email. Student progress is also monitored through IXL. We are emphasizing that the purpose of the work is to keep the students engaged with school, their teachers and their peers. The teachers are focused on supporting the students and meaningful learning.

### **High school students**

We expect students to complete **2-3 hours per day of work**, about half of their usual school day. We want to assure that technology is a supportive tool, not the only tool; staff are considering ways in which student learning can continue offline. This could include exploring the natural world, activities to support students' local communities (with appropriate social distancing), and engaging hands-on projects and artistic creations that stem from students' own passions and experiences.

When students turn in assignments, to the extent where it is practical, teachers are providing feedback on work completed. They are commenting on student work and providing feedback. Students who complete assignments would receive **credit** and those who do not complete the work receive **no credit**, at the recommendation of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. Grades may not be visible to students and parents in the gradebook as teachers need to use other means of calculating averages, due to the change in grading required by the State. All of the work completed while out of school, will be used to help improve each student's grade by a certain percentage of work done.

The High School will extend Quarter 3 for the remainder of the year, there will be no Quarter 4 this school year. Each Quarter (1, 2 and 3) will be **30%** of a student's grade with Midterms (January 2020) and Final Exams (end of school year) supporting the remaining **10%**.

These are challenging times and now more than ever, we must be partners in educating our students.

I wish you all continued good health.

Brian Haas  
Executive Director