



## A Message from the Superintendent regarding Coronavirus concerns as students, staff prepare for Spring Break

March 13, 2020

Dear Goodwill Excel Center Staff, Students, Guardians, and Families,

I know so many of you are looking forward to a well-deserved break over the coming week, and before our school community scatters, I want to talk about what is on all of our minds. I understand the rapidly changing news and information pertaining to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is creating stress for our students, staff and families. Given the most recent developments in our community, travel restrictions, and cancelled or postponed public events, your concerns are justified. However, I want to take this opportunity to assure you that in times of uncertainty, the safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priority. We need to continue to stay calm, make good decisions, and not operate out of fear, rather care and resiliency.

Please know that we continue to monitor this situation closely. We are part of a daily call with local area leaders and are listening carefully to the experts, as well as the federal and state guidelines that are being updated each day. We have also heard the concerns you have brought forth, especially with Spring Break around the corner, and potential for a longer-term impact. We will use the break to continue the deep cleaning and disinfecting of our schools. We use medical grade cleaning supplies and will adjust our protocols as necessary. We also have added hand sanitizers and cleaning wipes/supplies to all classrooms, with plenty of soap in the restrooms, and instructional handwashing posters all around campus.

We believe in responsible and safe travel while staying vigilant and following the recommended protocols issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local health authorities. I ask that you exercise good judgment and apply common sense when making decisions regarding travel. As reminders, students and staff should stay home if there is serious concern about their current health.

If you are traveling to any area designated as a Level 3 threat by the Centers for Disease Control, please notify your life coach or campus director, and understand you may need to self-quarantine for up to 14 days upon return as advised by medical professionals. For additional health precautions regarding travel, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

As of today, we at The Excel Center do not have plans to close our schools following Spring Break. Any decision to close schools will be made in conjunction with the Governor's office and the Texas Legislature, the Texas Education Agency, the CDC, the Texas School Safety Consortium, and our school board. In all likelihood, any school closure would occur as a part of a regional or statewide event. This could change at any time and, as I mentioned previously, we are monitoring this situation on a daily basis.

Out of respect for our students and staff and their families, if nearby school districts in Central Texas decide they need to keep students and staff home rather than holding live classes, The Excel Center will likely do the same. Some districts may decide to extend spring break beyond March 23<sup>rd</sup>. While at this moment local schools have indicated they do not plan to take this step, it is important that we plan accordingly as new information is presented daily. In the event of closure, staff will continue to work from home and will be communicating with students to offer support and guidance for staying on track for testing and graduation.

Please make sure your current phone number is in Skyward and text "yes" to 67587 to receive text messages. If The Excel Center decides over Spring Break to not resume school on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will send out alerts by text and with an automated phone call. If you need help checking your contact info in Skyward, please contact your Life Coach.

Also, if you are going to be traveling out of Texas over spring break, please let your Life Coach know where you are going.

Please continue to promote a healthy environment at school and at home. As a friendly reminder:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze or use disposable tissues and wash your hands immediately.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We know you will continue to have questions. Do not hesitate to contact your life coach or campus director if you have more specific questions. With your support, we will do everything possible to foster a safe learning environment for all students. We will keep you updated of any new developments. In the meantime, I wish you a relaxing Spring Break. Stay well!

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Traci Berry', with a stylized, cursive script.

Traci Berry  
Superintendent of Schools