



3 / 26 / 2020

COVID-19 response—we're in this together.

Dear Partner,

I hope you and your families are safe and well during these unfamiliar and unsettling times. At Great MN Schools, we're adapting to working virtually as a team and leaning into our core work: supporting our portfolio and partner schools and acting as a resource for community partners. I wanted to share what has shifted for us and information that you may find helpful.

First, I want to acknowledge the schools in our community—especially the school leaders, teachers, and other school staff who are working tirelessly to meet the needs of their students and families. Over the past two weeks, they have created strong distance learning plans, trained teachers to deliver lessons virtually, and delivered meals to thousands of families. While school buildings are physically closed, **our portfolio and partner schools are committed to meeting students' ongoing academic needs and supporting families with access to meals and other critical resources.**

To help schools and community navigate new realities, we are:

- **Working alongside our schools to provide them with critical information and to connect them with needed technical assistance supports.** This includes partnering with the expert providers we've already introduced into the landscape, like ANet and Bellwether, to ensure they are pivoting their interventions to best support schools in a distance learning context. Each school is thinking differently about how to adapt their school model because there is no one-size-fits-all solution, and each school is committed to ensuring their students continue to access high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- **Growing a COVID-19 school support fund** to ensure that our portfolio and partner schools get the technology they need to deliver robust, engaging distance learning. If you're interested in learning about or supporting this fund, contact [Kristen McKittrick](#), our development director. We will direct all funds toward highest-need priorities that can make an immediate difference across our schools.
- **Curating resources for community partners that can support families with children out of school and at home**—ranging from e-learning to accessing essential needs, like

food. We're disseminating information through regular emails and a [new webpage](#). If you'd like for us to include you on the email distribution, contact [Osman Ahmed](#), director of community partnerships.

We're eager to work with all of you to ensure children continue learning and that our schools are supported—we welcome your feedback.

Students from underserved communities are at risk of differentiated learning experiences, resulting in increased gaps in academic outcomes. Now, more than ever, the importance of a high-quality school is apparent. Our portfolio and partner schools are demonstrating every day why we have invested in them to lead their school communities.

With COVID-19 there's a lot that is unknown, but this is also an opportunity for all of us to adapt and grow.

Together, we can rewrite the future for students, families, and our entire community.

Be well,



Jennifer Stern
CEO, Great MN Schools