



March 18, 2020

Dear CSL Families,

### **The Long-term Education Goal:**

CSL intends to make certain no group of students and/or individual students suffer a negative long-term educational impact from this interruption of school. Administration will identify procedures, regulations and policies at the local, state, and national levels that require exceptions or waivers through the end of the school year to ensure CSL students suffer no negative long-term educational harm/disadvantage. The answers to any type of “What if” type questions seem to be obsolete almost as quickly as such answers are formulated. We do have many “What if” answers, but are holding them simply because the circumstances change daily (if not hourly). However, the Commonwealth has indicated that schools will not be penalized for failing to meet the required number of school days or instructional minutes. Due to the fluidity of the situation, definitive answers to many other long-term questions are not clear. Rest assured, we will do everything possible to support our students and provide the necessary relief. Thanks for your understanding and patience.

### **What parents can do to help?**

- Update your parent communication, if necessary. Please make sure your email and cell are entered correctly. Click here ([CSL Contact Update Form](#)) to update your information if you have not been receiving communication or you believe CSL does not have your most current contact information.
- Ask your child to check his/her CSL Email daily.
- Be patient as we all work through this situation.

### **“All Services Ended” Rationale**

In the previous communication, there was a statement that read... *“The Center for Student Learning will cease providing all services to all children/students effective ... Friday, March 13, at 6 pm. This Includes all special education and related services.”*

Translation: Under the Commonwealth Decree, The Center for Student Learning is no longer providing any services to students as we do during the normal instructional day. That being said, we believe we have an obligation to the community to offer assistance as best we can, particularly in the realm of “Learning Opportunities” during an extended school closure.

### **Collective Mindset and Timeline:**

Over the past few days continuing through the past weekend and early this week, small teams of teachers and administrators at each level and each of the Core Content areas have worked to develop a series of “Learning Opportunities” for each Grade/Course in a particular core content area. (More detail on “Learning Opportunities” below).

We, again, ask for your patience as we work to develop a series of meaningful and hopefully engaging Learning Opportunities. To that end, we ask that you think of this coming week as a “Snow Week” with Social Distancing. Take care of your family, friends, and neighbors. Students can take time to read, complete puzzles, watch the history channel, clean out the junk drawer, etc.

### **What are Learning Opportunities?**

Learning Opportunities are activities, links to online resources, and downloadable documents that students can voluntarily access during a closure.

Learning Opportunities:

- Are **voluntary** for students
- Are **not** the continuation of classroom instruction
- Are **not** teacher-led
- Are self-paced, independent activities
- Are activities that will each take roughly 15 – 30 minutes.
- Could review past material, introduce new material, or material in the realm of social emotional learning
- Will **not** be graded
- Are **not** sequenced, and for the most part, do **not** have to be completed in a particular order

### **CSL Learning Opportunity Roll-out Plans:**

Since each grade level and each content area has different software systems, things will look different depending on your child’s grade level and the content area of the Learning Opportunity. Additionally, how the information is conveyed to you and your child will also differ.

### **Middle and High School Plan**

#### **Phase 1: Beginning March 18**

- Review existing topics via your Google classrooms or teacher’s website from September through the present.
- The above is called Studying Independently! (It’s an old-fashioned thing. 😊😊)
- Read a Book
- Explore the Smart Futures program: <https://www.smartfutures.org/>
- Explore the PA Career Zone: [www.pacareerzone.org/](http://www.pacareerzone.org/)
- Explore Road Trip Nation: <https://roadtripnation.com/>
- Select a Khan Academy lesson to review concepts in any class <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- Pick a Study Island lesson to review: <https://www.studyisland.com/login>
- SAT Practice: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>
- Tour a famous Museum: <https://hellogiggles.com/news/museums-with-virtual-tours/>

**Phase 2: Beginning sometime during the Week of March 23**

- CSL will post Common Learning Opportunities for each Course/Grade in English, Science, Social Studies, and Math.
- These Learning Opportunities will be pushed out via existing Google Classroom by grade level and course. The students already have access to these classrooms as long as they are signed into their cslcharter.org google account.
- Have students keep checking their Google classrooms daily.

Again, Learning Opportunities presented by individual teachers in the Google platform are completely voluntary for students. CSL staff is clear on the below expectations if they choose to work with students in Google classroom during the closure:

- Student participation is voluntary.
- Students will not be graded.
- When this is all over, those who didn't/couldn't participate are not held responsible.

As circumstances change, we will adjust and keep you informed. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Bonner, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1. What if I have Questions/Concerns about the Learning Opportunity Plan?

Please email:

Dr. Bonner, Chief Executive Officer at [cbonner@cs charter.org](mailto:cbonner@cs charter.org)

Or

Peter Hackney, Dean of Students at [phackney@cs charter.org](mailto:phackney@cs charter.org)

Or

Christen Cartolaro, Special Education Coordinator at [ccartolaro@cs charter.org](mailto:ccartolaro@cs charter.org)

Please include your question, child's name, grade, and your cell number.

### 2. Will students need to turn in the Learning Opportunity Activities?

No. All are voluntary.

### 3. Why is CSL not going to provide On-line Classes?

While our schools are closed, we will not be providing formal distance/online learning. We are providing **Learning Opportunities** for our students throughout the closure.

As stated above, these Learning Opportunities available to students during the closure are **not required** in any way, will not be graded, and are not intended to replicate in-school instruction, but rather are intended to keep students engaged as learners by maintaining or extending their learning.

### 4. What if we do not have Wi-Fi in our home?

Please help your neighbors and communicate the below information. Those in the most need are not reading this email... or accessing internet addresses without WiFi.

#### **Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone:**

Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers.

For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit [www.xfinity.com/wifi](http://www.xfinity.com/wifi).

Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots, and then launch a browser.

### **Comcast Low-income families:**

Families who live in a Comcast service area can sign-up for Internet Essentials. New customers will receive 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month.

Additionally, for all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program's Internet service was increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.

### **5. What about Marking Periods/Trimester Grading?**

Our timelines for the Third Marking Period are yet to be determined.

Dates regarding final grades, grade entry, and when parents can view report cards/progress reports will be announced at a later date.