

May 4, 2020

## Greetings from Durham!

Dearest Durhamites,

As we continue to heed stay-at-home orders due to the current health pandemic, we want to highlight **National Teacher Appreciation Week**. Our Durham Public School (DPS) Teachers continue to play a vital role in education and instruction during this time of remote learning, and we are grateful for the creative and innovative ways they continue lead. When speaking of teachers in his April 24 briefing, Governor Cooper noted, “most of them already go the extra mile for their students, and now they’re running a marathon.” Well said! We agree! **#DPSTeacherAppreciationWeek**

Supporting teacher and student success requires a strong and equitable digital infrastructure. In recognizing expanded broadband access as a critical component of digital inclusion, [Governor Cooper recently announced partnerships with Duke Energy Foundation and AT&T](#). These partnerships equip more school buses with WIFI for travel into areas that lack broadband. Internet access supports student and teacher success by providing a reliable and consistent mode for students to access when submitting assignments, downloading materials, and connecting with teachers remotely. Additional partners and buses are expected to join the effort. Though more long-term solutions are needed, these short-term solutions help families now.

Increased student access to digital devices at home is another important component of digital inclusion. Durham County Government continues to work with local partners to provide DPS students with computers and digital literacy education. Also, DPS recently instituted “[blended remote learning](#)” opportunities to expand the availability of learning material. Instructional packets are available online, for pickup and by mail. Teachers are available daily via email, video chat or telephone to provide guidance, encouragement and feedback on student work. **#DPSIgnite**

Census data informs decisions about federal funding that supports [professional development for teachers and more highly qualified teachers in classrooms.](#)

Census data also informs decisions about federal funding for [Child Care and Development.](#) You can learn more about childcare for essential workers during COVID-19 by calling 888-600-1685 from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday.

While sheltering in place, and attending to personal, professional and academic responsibilities, remember to complete the Census **online, by mail or by telephone.**

On average, it takes less than 10 minutes to complete the Census questionnaire. Completing the Census is an opportunity to continue to positively impact our community! Everyone Counts! Including You! #DurhamCounts #MakeNCCount

Due to COVID-19 the deadline to complete the Census is extended to **October 31, 2020.**

Go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to complete the Census online.

Call 844-330-2020 to respond to the Census by phone in English.

Call 844-468-2020 to respond to the Census by phone in Spanish.

Warmest Regards,

Everyone Counts!

