



## **BKS Response to Covid-19**

### **April 1, 2020**

Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact not only on our lives, and the lives of our staff, but the children and families we serve have felt the impact very directly. As you may know, all seven of BKS' education centers and our 25 Chapel Street Headquarters have been closed for 2 weeks now, and they will remain closed until further notice from the Department of Education.

The Board and Management want to thank our staff for their excellent work and patience and dedication over the last two weeks. This has been an immensely challenging period with a rapidly shifting landscape in which to operate, requiring us to change tactics several times in the last two weeks.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on our students and their families:**

Currently 50 families (roughly 14% of our total student population) have been directly impacted by the effects of Covid-19 on our communities.

- 20 of our families have been directly laid off, or because of the loss of child care cannot work.
- 8 of our families have little or no access to our remote learning opportunities and lessons because they currently live in a shelter.
- In addition, 22 of our families experience food insecurity and are requesting assistance and information regarding food pantries around the city.
- This is the current situation for our families, and is likely to change as the shut down and "stay at home" orders stretch on through April.

As social distancing and "stay at home" orders carry on we expect the number of families impacted to grow.

#### **Supporting the continued learning of our students:**

In order to support the needs of our families and students, comply with our contracts, and put the health and safety of our staff first, we have implemented the following actions:

- Providing educational/instructional resources to share with families so that they can continue to help their children learn.
- Our Family Workers are providing support for our families through regular check-ins and connecting our more vulnerable families to any needed services.
- Our Food Services Staff providing recipes to our students' families in order to promote health and wellness at home.
- Maintaining contract compliance, fiscal management, and operations throughout this shutdown and stewarding our contracts and our donor's giving.

During these last two weeks BKS staff have also worked diligently to support the real needs of our students and their parents. We are working to support the continued learning of our students, the health and wellness of their families, as well as helping to address the challenges Covid-19 is causing our staff and organization.

Thank you for your on-going support of BKS, our staff, and the children and families we work with. If you would like to help BKS support our students through this crisis, please donate consider making a donation [here](#).