



135 BERKSHIRE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

April 7, 2020

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

RECOMMENDATION: That the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to negotiate amendments to transportation vendor contracts and contracts for other services essential to the operation of the school district for payments during the COVID19 closure period in accordance with requirements of the federal CARES Act (federal stimulus law) and guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Supporting information:

The CARES Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law in response to COVID19, set aside funding for K-12 education in a stabilization fund. The bill requires that any state or school district that receives money from the Education Stabilization Fund established by the federal stimulus bill “*shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.*”

Related Guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (March 27th *On the Desktop* communication from Commissioner Riley): “To the extent consistent with that directive, we expect school districts to continue payments for outsourced operational services that are needed to ensure continuity of essential services when schools reopen. Such payments may be conditioned on negotiated changes to contracts in order to address unanticipated service needs during the state of emergency. These services include, but are not limited to, transportation, custodial, and food services, in addition to the day and residential special education programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth N. Salim, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools