

Memo

To: OCDSB Principals, Vice-Principals, Social Work Team, Communications Team, Director's Executive Council, and Education Foundation of Ottawa's Board of Directors
From: Clarissa Arthur, Executive Director
Date: March 30th, 2020
Subject: Education Foundation of Ottawa's response to COVID-19

Please feel free to share this message with your networks and families.

The Education Foundation of Ottawa is the independent charitable arm of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) and exists to reduce economic barriers to successful learning by leveling the playing field for all students regardless of personal or socioeconomic circumstances.

These have been trying time for all; especially our OCDSB families that need us now more than ever. As a coordinated effort, the Education Foundation of Ottawa would like to inform you that we have committed to the following:

- We will donate **\$25,000** to the Ottawa Network for Education's (ONFE) effort in distributing their ***School Breakfast Replacement Kit*** program. These kits will be provided to prioritized communities already providing food hampers within the communities they serve. This will include schools that have the highest student needs and that can receive the first wave of distribution. ONFE is continuing urgent work to finalize models to expand their reach to students and their families across the entire city. Please see ONFE's media release [here](#). Instructions on how families can access kits are expected as soon as possible as this strategy evolves. If anyone would like to donate to ONFE's efforts, kits cost \$22/each; donations are being accepted by visiting the following link:
https://app.etapestry.com/cart/OttawaNetworkforEducation_1/default/item.php?ref=1180.0.445604953.
- We continue to work closely with our OCDSB and community partners to identify families in need and to find the most effective way to get support into their hands **as soon as possible**. Please know that a strategic, coordinated, accessible, and equitable plan takes time. We will provide updates as they become available. If you have families in immediate need, please seek the professional guidance of your OCDSB school social worker to access formal and informal supports.

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www.educationfoundationottawa.ca Registered charitable #823738349RR0001
<https://www.educationfoundationottawa.ca/how-were-responding-to-covid-19/>

As developments continue, I encourage you to stay connected to your colleagues, school staff, and families to ensure they are being given a **consistent message**. Please reinforce the message that utilizing community resources may be best practice until we can provide additional information regarding support for families (outside of the previously addressed area of food security).

On behalf of the Education Foundation of Ottawa staff and our Board of Directors, we applaud your efforts during these unprecedented times. I am confident that we are all committed to helping our most vulnerable families. I also appreciate your continued understanding and patience as we tackle these uncharted waters one day at a time.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clarissa Arthur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clarissa Arthur
Executive Director
Education Foundation of Ottawa

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead

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