



Hello,

We sincerely hope that you and your families are doing well.

Together, we are facing truly unprecedented times. The coronavirus pandemic is affecting our families, our businesses, our communities, and our way of life. In the midst of all of this, we wanted to reach out and update you on how we are moving forward at First Literacy.

First and foremost, our focus is on the health and well being of our First Literacy family: our employees, families, scholars, educators, and supporters.

We know that the best way to counter the spread of the virus is "social distancing." Therefore, we made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel our largest fundraiser, the 31st Annual Corporate Spelling Bee. Please check out our **website** for a list of generous First Literacy supporters who are committed to supporting our work despite the need to cancel. If that gesture was a spelling word, it would be spelled C-O-M-P-A-S-S-I-O-N, and we are grateful!

All staff are working remotely for the foreseeable future, but are readily and easily accessible via email and video or phone conferences. Our Professional Development workshops, scholar check-ins, and Literacy Lab planning are all still happening via remote access. This shift has gone smoothly thanks to the flexibility of our scholars, participants, and staff. We continue to move First Literacy's important initiatives along.

While we create physical space between ourselves, we must find ways to stay connected and strengthen our community ties. Please stay in touch and we will do the same. Together we will weather this crisis and continue our mission to help adults improve their lives through education.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry".

Terry Witherell, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff".

Jeffrey Beale, Chair, Board of Trustees

Terry can be reached at twitherell@firstliteracy.org.