



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

Presentation to the Board of Regents

April 6, 2020



New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

# STATE OF EMERGENCY IN NEW YORK

## No. 202.11: Continuing Temporary Suspension and...

IN ADDITION, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 29-a of Article 2-B of the Executive

Law to issue any directive during a disaster emergency necessary to cope with the disaster, I hereby issue

the following directives for the period from the date of this Executive Order through April 26, 2020:

- The directive contained in Executive Order 202.4 related to the closure of schools statewide shall hereafter be modified to provide that all schools shall remain closed until April 15, 2020, at which time the continued closure shall be re-evaluated. No school shall be subject to a diminution in school aid due to failure to meet the 180 day in session requirement as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, provided their closure does not extend beyond the term set forth herein. School districts must continue plans for alternative instructional options, distribution and availability of meals, and child care, with an emphasis on serving children of essential workers, and continue to first use any vacation or snow days remaining.


- Governor Cuomo directed every school in New York State to close until April 15
- All non-essential State employees have been ordered not to report to work and to work from home as much as practicable

# STATE OF EMERGENCY IN NEW YORK

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) are providing information and guidance for P-12 schools, colleges and universities, licensed professionals, adult education programs, and NYSED employees in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**P-12 School Guidance**



P-12 school guidance and resources are available from several sources, including NYSED, the U.S. Department of Education, the NYS Department of Health, the CDC, and the NYS Center for School Health.


**Additional Guidance**



Additional guidance is available for colleges and universities, licensed professionals, adult education programs, and NYSED employees.


- Guidance for Colleges & Universities →
- Guidance for Licensed Professionals →
- Guidance for Adult Education Programs →
- Guidance for NYSED Employees →

**Continuity of Learning**



NYSED launched a website featuring continuity of learning resources (technology- or non-technology-based) to provide districts and teachers with increased options to keep students engaged in learning.

**Building Closures**



All State Education Department buildings are temporarily closed to the public, including the State Museum, State Library, and State Archives.

- State Museum, Library, & Archives Closed →
- State Museum Online Exhibitions →
- State Library Online Resources →
- State Archives Research Room Services →

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Mar 30

It's National Doctors' Day! We'd like to recognize physicians, their work in #healthcare & their contributions to society & their communities, especially during the COVID-19 emergency. [bit.ly/2mA6zh7](https://bit.ly/2mA6zh7)

#ThankADoctor

**NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY**

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Mar 27

NYSED has launched a new website to help ensure continuity of learning for students during school closure. The website provides examples of technology- and non-technology-based resources for districts and schools. [bit.ly/2WwQQQE](https://bit.ly/2WwQQQE) #NYLearnsRemotely

#NYLearnsRemotely



The Board of Regents and NYSED have responded swiftly to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation:

- Opened lines of communication with the field and stakeholders
- Developed many comprehensive guidance documents and resources based on 14 Executive Orders to date
- Developed systems to accept and review continuity of learning, child nutrition and child care plans from more than 700 school districts statewide
- NYSED staff are working tirelessly to maintain crucial services for students, P-12 schools, colleges & universities, professional licensees, adult education programs, cultural institutions, and the people of New York State

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance and Resources

- School Health Services
- School Safety & Cleaning
- Child Nutrition Program
- Childcare & Child Nutrition Plans
- Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health
- Home Schooling
- Working Papers
- COVID Email Box

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: CONTINUITY OF LEARNING & STATE ASSESSMENTS



## Continuity of Learning

- Continuity of Learning Website
- Submittal of District Developed Continuity of Education Plans and Childcare Plans
- Collaboration with Public Broadcasting Association
- Development of Regulatory Amendments & Guidance
- Smart Schools Bond Act team sent plans supporting the purchase of over ten thousand devices

## State Assessments

- Elementary- and Intermediate-Level State Assessments have been suspended
- NYSED will provide guidance on the Regents Examinations in the near future
- Waiver received from the US Department of Education for assessments, accountability and reporting for 2020-21

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND WORLD LANGUAGES

- Released [information](#) to support Continuity of Learning for English Language Learners
  - Partnered with City University of New York to deliver [online professional learning resources](#) to support Students with Interrupted/Inconsistent Formal Education (SIFE)
  - Partnered with Office of Special Education to deliver [guidance related to ELLs with Individualized Education Programs \(IEP\)](#)
- Established and maintain weekly communications with the ELL Leadership Council
- Aligned [Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks \(RBERNs\)](#) to provide Professional Learning and technical assistance services remotely
- Partnered with Office of ESSA Funded Programs to assist districts' utilization of appropriated funds to address school closures



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (OSE)

## Resources

U.S. Department of Education (USDE) Written Guidance and Webinars on NYSED's Website

OSE Providing Resources to Assist Parents and Schools in Educating Students With Disabilities During School Closure

OSE Educational Partnership Modifying Technical Assistance (TA) Materials to Virtual Formats

OSE Providing Question and Answer Guidance & Proposing Emergency Regulations

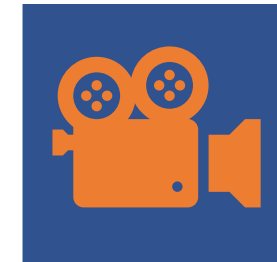
Closed the NYS Schools for the Deaf and Blind

## Stakeholder Engagement



Regional Staff Providing TA through Participation in Virtual Regional Meetings

Livestream with Approved Private Schools Serving Students with Disabilities



OSE Educational Partnership Family and Community Engagement Centers Providing TA to Families

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- Waiver received from the US Dept. of Education for assessments, accountability and reporting for 2020-21
- Granted extensions for required reporting and submission deadlines upon request to minimize administrative burden on schools and districts
- Converted on-site school support visit protocols to virtual formats and re-scheduled visits upon request
- Provided technical assistance on the use of federal funds to help districts address student/family needs
- Supported the development and administration of three COVID-19 plan templates, including the reviewer protocol for Continuity of Instruction plans, in response to Executive Order
- Provided training to more than 80 NYSED staff responsible for completing plan reviews to ensure timely, high-quality reviews
- Completed on-demand data analysis of plans for Commissioner and BOCES District Superintendents to facilitate meaningful plan implementation

**User's Guide for Submitting COVID-19 Plan**

Per Executive Order No. 202.4: Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency, school districts shall develop a plan for alternative instructional options, distribution and availability of meals, and child care, with an emphasis on serving children of parents in the health care profession or first responders who are critical to the response effort. Such plans shall be submitted to the State Education Department and may be amended or modified by the State Education Department, in consultation with the Department of Health and Office of Children and Family Services at any time.

Toward that end, NYSED has published in the NYSED Business Portal three plan sections that must be completed by each district. Districts must submit each of the three sections of the plan by completing the following steps:

1. Go to the Business Portal (<http://portal.nysed.gov>).
2. Click on the Log In button. If needed, a user may also reset a previously assigned password.
3. Enter your username and password.
4. Click on "SED Monitoring and Vendor Performance System" under My Applications.

**SCEP Support Visit 3 - Virtual**

District: **Name of CSD** School: **Name of School** Principal: **Name** Date: **March Date at Time a.m. or p.m.**

Visit Outline:

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    graph LR
      A[Reflecting on Plan Progress (45 minutes)] --> B[Staff Focus Groups (2 groups @ 15 minutes each)]
      B --> C[Areas of Need for 20-21 SCEP (60-90 minutes)]
  
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Key Information	Key Information
Support Visit #3 (March-April 2020)	<p>SCEP Support Visits are designed to facilitate reflection and provide technical assistance toward the school's implementation of its annual improvement plan to ensure progress toward its goals.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> This visit is focused on reflecting on progress thus far and considering how lessons learned from this year could inform next year's improvement plan.</p> <p><b>Meeting will consist of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing progress toward each goal.</li> <li>• Discussing how practices have been adopted in classrooms.</li> <li>• Connecting with two sets of staff members involved in this year's improvement initiatives to learn their insights into the school's needs.</li> <li>• Discussing potential areas of need for the 2020-21 SCEP.</li> </ul>

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    graph LR
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# COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS & NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Activities to support charter schools:

- Developed tools and resources
- New web page for charter schools:  
<http://www.nysed.gov/ZkW>

## Activities to support nonpublic schools:

- Facilitated the use of Equitable Services funds under ESSA to support professional development in distance education for teachers in religious and independent schools.

### • Education Continuity Plan Exemplars:

#### 1. Educational Continuity Plan Chat - [West Buffalo Charter School](#)

This is a conversation with Andrea Todoro, the school leader of the [West Buffalo Charter School](#), regarding the supports and services they are providing to students during the COVID-19 emergency:



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: HIGHER EDUCATION

## COVID-19 Guidance for Educator Preparation Programs



### Posted guidance related to flexibilities for Colleges and Universities

<http://www.nysed.gov/ZkP>

- Offered guidance on flexibilities for colleges
- Participated in webinars with stakeholders
- Online delivery of all programs
- Allow for flexibility for grant & opportunity programs (MBK, PTECH, LPP, etc.)

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES

## ACCES

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services



- Over 700 vocational rehabilitation (VR) staff working remotely to ensure the continuity of services
- Maintained communications with 300 counselors to and 50k+ participants
- Closed High School Equivalency (HSE) test centers and provided online guidance to the field
- Issued comprehensive guidance and training for Adult Education remote learning
- Issued formal guidance to BPSS School Owners and Directors

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: THE PROFESSIONS

- Developed regulatory amendment language
- Developed a dedicated COVID-19 website for the Office of the Professions
- Distributed email messages to retired licensees & prospective volunteer health care providers requesting assistance resulting in more than 80,000 volunteers
- Developed an online registration system that expedites the return to practice of inactive licensees
- Created medical program attestation form for early graduation of final-year medical students
- Developed new continuing education policies allowing professionals to complete 100% of the requirements online.
- Improved pace of licensing & re-registering of health care professionals



COVID-19 Response Effort Volunteers Needed: New York State active and inactive licensees can find more information about volunteering here: [bit.ly/2X1noll](https://bit.ly/2X1noll)



10:00 AM · Apr 3, 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: CULTURAL EDUCATION

- Closed the Cultural Education Center
- Donated 22,000 pairs of gloves to COVID-19 emergency response efforts
- State Museum will offer virtual field trips to the Museum via Facebook
- State Archives is collecting documentation of the State's response to the pandemic
- State Archives is providing guidance to local governments and non-government repositories
- State Library is working with libraries and stakeholders statewide
- State Library is working with Office of Counsel and Government Relations to make necessary changes to regulations
- Office of Public Broadcasting is working with PBS to provide educational resources for students and teachers



A graphic for Facebook Live field trips to the New York State Museum. It features a smartphone displaying a Facebook Live stream of the museum building. To the right, the text reads "Field Trips to the NYS Museum" with the NYS logo. Below this, it says "Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays 1:00 p.m. (EDT)" and includes a row of social media icons (smiley face, thumbs up, sad face, heart, neutral face, thumbs up, sad face) and the URL "www.facebook/nysmuseum".

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- Facilitated implementation of Business Continuity Plans across the agency
- Implemented Internal Employee Communications Plan
- Provided support for Statewide Emergency Operations
- Ensured all SED Facilities are COVID-19 ready
- Transitioned over 2,000 employees to work from home including implementing policies for telecommuting and alternate work schedules
  - Distributed over 1,200 laptops, iPhones and portable Wi-Fi devices



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: COMMUNICATIONS, CFO & COUNSEL'S OFFICE

## Communications

- Continuously disseminates information via dedicated websites for external and internal audiences, listservs, news releases, social media, guidance memos, news & notes and parent newsletter
- Launched social media campaigns
  - #NYLearnsRemotely
  - #WhatImStayingHomeFor
  - #HeroesOfCovid19

## Chief Finance Officer

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (\$30.7B total)
  - P12 School Emergency Relief Fund (\$1 billion for NY)
  - Emergency Education Relief Fund (\$164.6 million for NY)
  - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (\$13.9 billion)
- Collaborated with OSE on tuition-rate setting guidance
- Assisted program offices with grant, contract and finance issues

## Counsel's Office

- Assisted numerous program offices on their guidance and proposed regulations
- Answered countless legal questions

# QUESTIONS

**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Mar 31

Stay home because you care about the people who matter to you. Why are you staying home for? #WhatImStayingHomeFor #COVID19 #stayconnected #stayhome @WSWHEBOCES



**WHAT I'M STAYING HOME FOR**

GIF

1 3 12

**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Mar 31

Did you know @PBSKIDS offers fun games and activities to help your child learn at home? Check them out at: [to.pbs.org/2NgHSSi](https://to.pbs.org/2NgHSSi) #TipTuesday #NYLearnsRemotely



#NYLearnsRemotely

**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · 22h

Children's author and illustrator Chris Van Dusen has read all his books on Facebook Live (and posted them to YouTube!). He is also doing daily drawing tutorials for kids. Check them out! [bit.ly/2JhriiB](https://bit.ly/2JhriiB) #NYLearnsRemotely



#NYLearnsRemotely

**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Mar 30

Learn from home with @WMHTPubMedia! WMHT is offering even more educational programming for students in grades Pre-K through 12. More information is available at: [wmht.org/homeclassroom](https://wmht.org/homeclassroom) #NYLearnsRemotely



**LEARN FROM HOME WITH WMHT!**

Starting Monday, March 23, WMHT will offer **even more** educational programming for students in **grades pre-k through 12**.

[wmht.org/homeclassroom](https://wmht.org/homeclassroom) **wmht** .gov

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