



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

Presentation to the Board of Regents

May 4, 2020



New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

# STATE OF EMERGENCY IN NEW YORK

## No. 202.18: Continuing Temporary Suspension and...

- Executive Order 202.14, which extended the directive contained in Executive Order 202.4 as amended by Executive Order 202.11 related to the closure of schools statewide is hereby continued to provide that all schools shall remain closed through May 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 for the remainder of the school year
- All non-essential State employees 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.

### 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.

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Apr 16

We'd like to thank the @MontefioreNYC pharmacy team for their dedicated service during this difficult time. From the Senior Director of Pharmacy, to the pharmacy managers and pharmacists, to the buyers, to the pharmacy specialists, you are truly #HeroesOfCovid19.



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



NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Apr 20

Stay home to stop the spread and protect those who are vulnerable to COVID-19. Who are you staying home for? #WhatImStayingHomeFor



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

- Opened lines of communication
- Developed many comprehensive guidance documents
- Developed systems to accept and review continuity of learning, child nutrition and child care plans
- While working remotely, NYSED staff are working tirelessly to maintain crucial services

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- Child Nutrition Program
  - Federal waiver application to permit reimbursement at a higher rate
  - Emergency Meals-To-You Program for Rural Schools
  - P-ebt Collaboration with OTDA
  - Created new waiver application and claims process for closure meal programs
  
- Supporting Students and Families Disconnected from Schools Guidance



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

- Revised the Continuity of Learning Plan guidance
  - Required updated plans by May 4
- Updated NYSED Continuity of Learning Resource Website:
  - Educator Resources
  - District Planning
  - Staying Connected



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: STATE ASSESSMENTS

- Suspended all State assessments, including Regents Exams
  - Cancelled June & August Regents and pathway examinations
  - Waived certain assessment requirements for graduation
  - USDE waiver received for 2020-21 assessments, accountability and reporting
- Multiple Webinars on Diploma Requirements and Assessment Exemptions



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

- Developing guidance on services to English Language Learners (ELLs) and world languages students
- Delivered 18 webinars for 1,250 world language teachers
- Created individual workgroups to support ELLs in collaboration with the RBERNs and the ELL Leadership Council
- Delivered professional development online through alignment of RBERNs

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

## Resources

### OSE Continues to Develop and Identify Online Materials to Support Schools and Families



Continuity of Learning for Students with Disabilities



Schooling and Supporting their Children at Home



Updated Question & Answer Guidance to the Field



Virtual Learning Resources and Virtual Impartial Hearing Officer Training

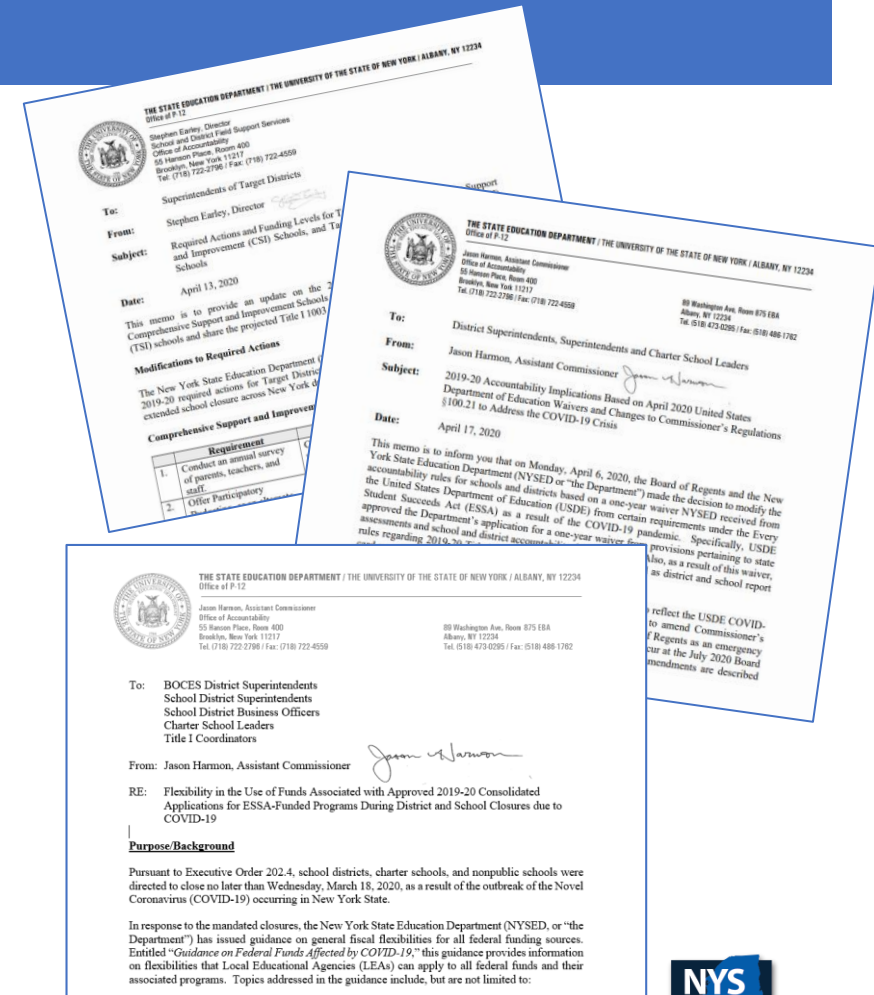
## Stakeholder Engagement

- Special Education Directors Meetings in each of the 37 BOCES Regions
- Special Education Leadership Discussions with the Big 4 City School Districts and the NYCDOE
- Conference Calls with Stakeholder Organizations
- OSE Regional Offices and Educational Partnership Centers Responding to Parents and Families



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- Secured USDE waiver several fiscal provisions of ESSA and GEPA
- Distributed multiple guidance memos
- Created optional cohort meetings for schools participating in the Enhancing Principal Leadership and Instructional Coaching Consortium
- Created an online application to administer more than \$1.2 billion in CARES Act funds available to districts



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: HIGHER EDUCATION

## COVID-19 Guidance for Educator Preparation Programs



## Updated guidance related to flexibilities and solutions for Colleges and Universities

- Extended flexibility for online delivery of courses through Summer 2020
- Working with public and private sectors on solutions for Fall 2020
- Provided flexibility in meeting SOCE requirements
- Updated Guidance for Educator Preparation Programs and Teacher Certifications
- Flexibilities and extensions for grant & opportunity programs (MBK, PTECH, HEOP, etc.)
- Continuity of Engagement (MBK Village Meeting, Grant and Opportunity programs)
- Federal CARES ACT provides for funding for Colleges and students

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



- Submitted a waiver request for provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Updated guidance and frequently asked questions for vocational rehabilitation providers
- Two webinars for 850 case managers and program directors
- Continued modernization of processes
- Reviewed and approved 121 licensed career schools to temporarily offer online instruction

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF THE PROFESSIONS

- Daily updates to OP's COVID-19 website to provide:
  - Guidance on Executive Orders issued by the Governor
  - 60+ COVID-19 FAQs for applicants & licensees
  - Expanded tele-practice guidance to better implement social distancing in professional services
- Guidelines established to grant Licensure Qualifying Programs needed flexibility

 **NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Apr 16  
We'd like to thank the @MontefioreNYC pharmacy team for their dedicated service during this difficult time. From the Senior Director of Pharmacy, to the pharmacy managers and pharmacists, to the buyers, to the pharmacy specialists, you are truly #HeroesOfCovid19.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF CULTURAL EDUCATION

- Established a COVID-19 Documentation Task Force to document the effects of the pandemic
- Offering access to virtual collections and online educational resources
- New York State Summer School of the Arts will offer virtual classes and online workshops



A graphic for a Facebook Live event. The top half has a green background. On the left is a smartphone displaying a Facebook Live video of a museum building. To the right of the phone is the Facebook LIVE logo, followed by the text "Field Trips to the NYS Museum" in a stylized font. The bottom half of the graphic has a dark blue background with white text: "Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays 1:00 p.m. (EDT)". Below this text are several small icons representing social media interactions (smiley face, thumbs up, speech bubble, heart, etc.). At the bottom is the URL "www.facebook/nysmuseum".

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- Focus on Reopening SED Facilities including:
  - Guidance for staff returning to work
  - Disinfection protocol for facilities
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Social distancing best practices
  - Changes to business practices
- Non-essential staff volunteering in support of statewide coronavirus response operations



# COVID-19 RESPONSE: SSBA & NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Approved \$69 million in Smart Schools Bond Act applications
- Supported internet access for the Indigenous Nations
- NYSED worked with its three Regional Nonpublic Professional Resource Centers to provide professional learning for more than 1,000 nonpublic school teachers
- Issued information on extended deadline for parents to make transportation requests for 2020-21 until May 9



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

## Communications

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

## Finance

- CARES Act (\$30.7B): application for \$1B ESSERF allocation submitted April 30
- Applying for two grant opportunities funded by the CARES Act to develop innovative K-12 and workforce preparation models
- Requested additional waivers for vocational rehabilitation and ESSA for potential inclusion in the U.S. Secretary of Education's report to Congress
- Advocating for additional funding for education and all NYSED program areas

## Counsel's Office

- Assisted numerous program offices on additional guidance and proposed regulations
- Approved alternative service methods and extended deadlines for 310 appeals



# QUESTIONS



**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Apr 24

Thank you to all the licensed professionals, including nurses, physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, volunteers, & other healthcare providers who are the **#HeroesOfCOVID19**. Share a picture of a licensed professional to help recognize their exceptional efforts!



**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Apr 24  
Mrs. Ward of @HartfordCSD reads aloud to her students in costumes to go along with the books! As stated, she also has a book from Scholastic Books. @WSWHEBOCES #EducatorsAreHeroes



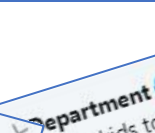
0:48 680 views



**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Apr 3  
Stay home because you care about your friends. Who are you staying home for? #WhatImStayingHomeFor #COVID19 #stayconnected #stayhome @WSWHEBOCES



**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Apr 21  
We thank the nurses, physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, lab professionals, other healthcare providers, & volunteers who are part of the **#COVID19** response effort. Share a picture of a licensed professional you want to recognize during this time. **#HeroesOfCOVID19**



**NYS Education Department** @NYSEDNews · Apr 24  
Keep your kids to stay active! Hip Hop Public Health has an online free dance breaks for kids to do at home: [bit.ly/398B5Su0](https://bit.ly/398B5Su0) @HHPHorg #FitnessFriday

