

COVID-19 Emergency Regulations Part VII

December 14, 2020



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- As a result of the pandemic and the Governor's numerous Executive Orders, the Department adopted emergency regulations at the April, May, June, July, September, October, and November 2020 Board of Regents meetings to address the issues resulting from the interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis and to plan for the reopening of schools.
- The Department is proposing further regulatory changes to provide additional flexibility to the field and students during this crisis, to address anticipated issues resulting from the continued interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Snow Day Reporting for the 2020-21 School Year

- Commissioner's regulations require superintendents to notify the Commissioner as soon as possible whenever a school's emergency plan or building-level school safety plan is activated and results in the closing of a school building in the district, and to provide any information the Commissioner requires.
- However, such regulation provides that this information need not be provided for routine snow emergency days.

Snow Day Reporting Continued

- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the State has shifted to allowing and/or requiring remote instruction by many districts.
- In light of this, the Department is offering a one-year pilot program to allow school districts to shift to remote instruction for days that a district would have otherwise closed due to a snow emergency.
- The notification of these remote instruction snow days is necessary for the Department to review and evaluate the snow day pilot program for possible future extensions.

Graduation Assessment Exemption Declination

- At the September 2020 meeting of the Board of Regents, the Department permanently adopted amendments to Commissioner's regulations to provide that parents and persons in parental relation of students scheduled to graduate in January, June, or August of 2020 who were exempted from a graduation assessment requirement be given the opportunity to decline such exemption.
- With the cancellation of the January 2021 Regents examination, the Department proposes to amend this provision to also provide parents and persons in parental relation of students scheduled to graduate in January, June, or August of 2021 who have been exempted from a graduation assessment requirement the opportunity to decline such exemption.
- Additionally, the proposed amendments extend the time period required by schools to give parents or persons in parental relation notification of the option to decline such exemption from 10 calendar days to 30 calendar days.

APPR Variance Application Timeframes

- Current Rules of the Board of Regents provide that an Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) variance application approved after December 1st of any school year must be implemented in the following school year.
- To provide flexibility for APPR variance application timeframes, the Department proposes to amend such rule to provide that upon a finding by the Commissioner of extraordinary circumstances, variance applications approved after December 1st of a school year may be implemented in that school year.



Questions?