



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Updates and Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19 School Closures

Updated: March 23, 2020

This guidance will be updated regularly during COVID-19 school closures.



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, Ed.D.
Commissioner

Dear Educators:

Per [Executive Order 104 \(2020\)](#) and [Executive Order 107 \(2020\)](#), effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, all New Jersey public, private and parochial schools from Pre-Kindergarten to grade 12 will be closed to students as a result of COVID-19 and education will continue remotely, for as long as the Orders remain in effect. During this time, it is one of our highest priorities to provide clear guidance to educators about how to manage and how to continue essential services during these closures.

NJDOE released [Guidance Regarding Requirements for Public Health-Related School Closure](#) to school districts that included important recommendations, contacts and information from the New Jersey Department of Health. We will continue to update the guidance on the NJDOE's [NJDOE's Coronavirus Information webpage](#) to address topics we know will arise as you move through this period of unprecedented school closures.

We are working diligently with our sister state agencies, particularly the New Jersey Department of Health, as well as with local school districts to ensure everyone remains safe and informed amid the COVID-19 outbreak. I encourage you to also check [NJDOH's COVID-19 webpage](#) regularly for the most up-to-date information and to continue to work with your local officials to ensure your district and your community receive all of the supports you need.

Thank you for all that you have done to continue to support students during this time. I send you sincerest wishes for your continued good health, and that of your family and your community. Please stay in touch; we are here to support you.

Sincerely,

Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.
New Jersey Commissioner of Education

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2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Related Updates: New Content

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing the following information to assist districts as they continue school-based operations during the duration of COVID-19 related school closures. Additional questions should be directed to NCOV@doh.nj.gov.

Effective March 23, 2020:

- [Assessment](#) (section updated)
- [Educator Preparation Programs \(EPPs\) and Certification](#) (section updated)
- [Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities](#) (section updated)
- [Nonpublic School Guidance](#) (new section)

General Information for School Closures

1. **Question:** Can the NJDOE please provide guidance regarding how attendance will be captured if schools were to close due to COVID-19?

Answer:

As relayed in the March 13, 2020 NJDOE Memo, [Guidance Regarding Requirements for Public Health-Related School Closure](#), “[a]ny day on which all students impacted by a public health-related closure have access to home instruction services provided consistent with the guidance in this memo will count as a day on which the board of education has provided public school facilities toward its compliance with the 180-day requirement in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9*.” Because such instruction is being provided, all students can be recorded as present for applicable days unless the district knowingly determines a student was not participating in any such instruction during health-related school closures

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education recently released a [fact sheet regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on Assessments and Accountability under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#). As additional federal guidance becomes available, the NJDOE will continue to provide schools and districts with any updated information.

2. **Question:** Districts are concerned that implementing precautionary school closures might put the district at risk of falling out of compliance with the requirement to provide school facilities for at least 180 days (*N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9*). Has the NJDOE offered any flexibility regarding how districts can meet that 180-day requirement in the event of a school closure?

Answer:

Yes. Please see the March 13, 2020 NJDOE Memo, [Guidance Regarding Requirements for Public Health-Related School Closure](#).

We encourage districts to consult their county offices of education regarding any questions or concerns surrounding the development and implementation of the school health-related preparedness plans referenced in that guidance.

3. Question: What students must receive instruction?

Answer:

All students served by the district must be addressed in the plan, including students in preschool if the district has state funded preschool and/or if the district services preschoolers with disabilities. The plans developed must include age-appropriate strategies and materials to meet the needs of all students. Districts offering preschool should remember to include contracted providers—private preschool providers and Head Start providers—in their planning activities. Each district plan must also include developmentally appropriate strategies and materials to meet the needs of all students with disabilities including those educated in out-of-district placements. Districts are encouraged to consult with the school in which the student is placed to provide continuity of instruction to the maximum extent practicable.

For further information, please refer to the [Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak](#).

4. Question: How might a district be able to administer home instruction remotely if families in our community do not have a device or internet connectivity?

Answer:

Equitable access to learning is a critical consideration for any plan and will require that a district understands the limitations each student faces. Districts should consider collecting information on which students have access to a device, how that device is or is not shared, and what access each student has to a network. Schools and districts should take care to collect this information in a manner that avoids stigmatization of any students with varying degrees of access to technology and internet service at home.

Instructional strategies should be varied and designed to meet the needs of the students. Districts should consider various solutions, such as utilizing partnerships with local community-based organizations and businesses, developing worksheets for instruction, or uploading of lessons electronically.

Accommodations and multiple means of conducting assignments should be considered for students with disabilities. If students with disabilities do not have access to internet connectivity to participate in remote or online home instruction, the IEP team will need to determine what compensatory instruction a student may require when their school district reopens.

5. Question: In the face of a pandemic, issues will emerge that are beyond the practical operation of a school district. Does the NJDOE have any advice for the situation in which education becomes less of a priority for people?

Answer:

The NJDOE understands districts will need to exhibit flexibility, that the plan may need to be updated as the situation changes, and that the NJDOE will need to provide individualized support to districts on a case-by-case basis.

6. Question: In the event of a school closure, are there any non-teaching personnel that may be deemed essential and required to perform certain duties?

Answer:

When developing and updating its emergency preparedness plan, each district will need to consider their specific circumstances to determine which personnel would be considered essential and need to perform some duties during a closure. It is likely that certain staff would be needed in most districts, such as the chief school administrator, to oversee and coordinate operations; the school business administrator, to maintain business office operations; information technology staff, to assist staff using remote access and to implement any online instruction; staff involved in the preparation or delivery of food; and custodial and maintenance staff, to provide access to district facilities, and to clean and sanitize buildings as needed.

Special Education

1. Question: How should students with disabilities, including students in special class programs, medically fragile students, students with one-to-one paraprofessionals, and students receiving related services, be accommodated in the plan?

Answer:

Home instruction/services shall be consistent with the student's Individualized Education Plan Program (IEP) to the most appropriate extent possible. Districts should talk to parents, who are key members of the IEP team, and help them consider how they may best ensure that students with disabilities have the necessary supports, including medical supports, in place during a public health-related school closure. Consultation with the parents should explore how students with disabilities will gain equitable access to home instruction.

This is a temporary situation, and districts must offer special education services to the most appropriate extent possible while students are away from their schools/programs. IEP teams may need to consider compensatory services when students return to school and IEPs may

need to be adjusted accordingly. The IEP team should determine the amount of compensatory related services students with IEPs may require, on a case-by-case basis, when school resumes.

For further information, please refer to the [Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak](#).

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- 2. Question:** Who is responsible for ensuring services are provided to students with disabilities attending schools outside of the district?

Answer:

Each district should maintain communication with every out-of-district placement where one or more of their students with disabilities attends during school closures. This includes in-state and out-of-state approved private schools for students with disabilities, county educational services commissions, jointure commissions, special services school districts, Naples placements, regional day schools, the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf and other school districts.

It is the responsibility of the sending district to ensure students with disabilities attending out-of-district placements are provided with instruction during school closures consistent with the student's IEP to the greatest extent possible. Districts are encouraged to collaborate with the student's school of attendance regarding the nature and delivery of instruction.

Students in out-of-state residential schools may remain in those placements; however, if they will come home during the time of the closure, the local health agency should be contacted for guidance regarding their return to school. Decisions regarding attendance for students educated outside of the district should be made on an individual district basis. If an out-of-district placement remains open while a student's resident district is required to close, and it is determined that the student will not attend school, the home instruction guidance to the resident district applies to that student if he or she does not attend school. The provision of home instruction should be determined in consultation with the receiving school. Ultimately, it is the sending district's responsibility to ensure home instruction is provided.

Food Service

1. **Question:** How should districts provide meals to students who receive free and reduced lunch during a closure?

Answer:

All boards of education must develop a school health-related closure preparedness plan to provide home instruction in the event of such a closure. Each preparedness plan should address the provision of school nutrition benefits or services for eligible students. Districts can review the [NJDOE Checklist for Emergency Preparedness Plans](#) on the NJDOE website to better understand what must be included. The preparedness plans should be submitted to the appropriate Executive County Superintendent.

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2. **Question:** How should districts work to ensure they are reimbursed for feeding eligible students during this health-related closure?

Answer:

On March 11, 2020, the United States Department of Agriculture granted the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's (NJDA) request to waive the requirements typically associated with the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to allow schools to provide meals to eligible students during the period of school closure due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Specifically, NJDA is permitted to allow schools enrolled in the SFSP or SSO to provide meals to eligible students in non-congregate settings, as well as create a shortened application process for eligible districts not currently enrolled in SSO.

In consultation with NJDA, NJDOE is directing any district that has at least one eligible school to apply as soon as possible for inclusion in the federal summer meals program. Once those districts are eligible School Funding Authorities, they will be eligible to receive federal reimbursement for providing meals to all free and reduced lunch students throughout the district at any school site.

SFAs in good standing have two options for reimbursement, under the SFSP or the SSO Program, should they close or institute remote instruction due to the Coronavirus:

1. SFAs approved to participate in the 2019 Summer Food Service Program can claim reimbursement for meals served according to all SFSP regulations. Form #199 will be emailed to approved SFSP participants. Approved SFAs should complete and e-mail Form #199, Waiver to Serve Meals during a COVID-19 related closure, to snpspecialprojects@ag.nj.gov as soon as possible, for approval to serve meals due to a COVID-19 related closure.

2. SFAs with at least one school site serving a minimum of 50% or more free and reduced-price eligible students can apply to the SSO through the School Nutrition Electronic Application and Reimbursement System (SNEARS). Once approved, all students served will be claimed at the “free” eligibility classification. In order to apply, click on the “Seamless Summer Option” link on the home page of SNEARS.

This link is active as of Monday, March 16, 2020 at 8 a.m. The SSO program has a more streamlined application process and districts should consider applying for that program first. A quick turnaround time for approval is expected. SFAs serving meals through the SFSP and SSO must continue to follow all counting, claiming, and meal pattern guidelines. Up to two meals may be claimed per child per day. The Division of Food and Nutrition acknowledges that many SFAs do not qualify to participate in either SSO or SFSP because they have less than 50% free and reduced-price eligible students. To that end, an additional waiver has been submitted to the USDA requesting to allow these SFAs to continue providing meals through the National School Lunch Program. This waiver request is under review. The Division of Food and Nutrition will maintain communication and provide guidance as received.

Additional information for districts is available on our [NJDOE's Coronavirus Information webpage](#). Questions may be directed to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition at 609-984-0692.

School districts that plan to participate in these meal provision programs should continue to make appropriate plans and prepare for meal service during school closures. Information and resources regarding such plans and preparations can be found on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#) and by contacting county offices of education.

Assessments

1. **(Updated) Question:** How do COVID-19-related school closures affect statewide testing for school year 2019-20?

Answer:

The NJDOE is communicating with the United States Department of Education (ED), other states in similar situations and school districts to develop guidance for long-term testing interruptions. We are currently evaluating all flexibilities and potential schedule changes and will provide guidance as school reopening dates are confirmed. **Decisions regarding federally required statewide testing are evolving quickly. The NJDOE will provide more information about statewide testing as soon as possible.**

2. Question: How will the NJDOE support districts and schools in meeting their requirements to administer New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) Portfolio Appeals?

Answer:

Portfolio appeals will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The NJDOE will extend the submission deadline of May 8, 2020, which is the district submission deadline to ensure the NJDOE will issue an approval in time for student participation in graduation ceremonies. The NJDOE is developing a process to electronically submit portfolio appeals and will provide additional information as soon as possible.

3. Question: How can students, who must participate in the Portfolio Appeals process, meet their graduation assessment requirement if schools are closed?

Answer:

The NJDOE is encouraging districts and schools to develop a process to make Constructed Response Tasks (CRTs) available to students remotely. Some potential options include:

- Post CRTs on district/school website.
- Create a process and “drop box” for the electronic return to the district/school of completed CRTs.
- Students without access to the internet can have CRTs mailed to them, complete them at home, and bring them for submission when school reopens.

4. Question: When will the National Assessment of Educational Progress Long-Term Trend (NAEP LTT) resume?

Answer:

The National Center for Education Statistics has suspended administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Long-Term Trend (NAEP LTT) Assessment for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Testing will resume in January 2021. Thank you to participating districts.

5. **Question:** Are the scheduled administrations for ACCESS for ELLs and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) adjusted in any way?

Answer:

- Due to COVID-19 school closures, ACCESS for ELLs administration has been interrupted. The New Jersey Department of Education is working with the US Department of Education on guidance regarding this year's administration.
- The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) administration will not start on April 1, 2020, as was previously reported, and updated schedules and policies are forthcoming.

6. **(New) Question:** In light of school closures, is May 11th still the deadline for the 60-day window to report 2019 NJSLA-Science results to local school boards of education?

Answer:

The NJDOE recognizes that, considering school closures, reporting to local school boards may not be possible by the May 11, 2020 deadline. School districts will not be penalized in the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for not reporting to local school boards by May 11, 2020 as stipulated by N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.3(a). Additional information regarding NJQSAC requirements is forthcoming.

7. **(New) Question:** Are districts still responsible for mailing out hardcopy science Individualized Student Reports (ISRs) to parents and/or guardians?

Answer:

The NJDOE recognizes that, under the current circumstances, mailing out hardcopy science ISRs may not be possible. The NJDOE asks that districts mail hardcopy science ISRs when schools are back in session.

Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) and Certification

1. **(New) Question:** Can I still apply for my educator certification?

Answer:

The online Teacher Certification Information System (TCIS) is available but with limited capacity. Candidates can complete an application, a notarized oath of allegiance and pay any fees online. The accompanying documents must still be submitted via mail to the Office of Educator Certification. There will be some delays in uploading the documents into TCIS and the NJDOE staff apologizes for this inconvenience. Please check back on the NJDOE's [Office of Certification webpage](#) for updated information and contact us via email at licensing.requests@doe.nj.gov.

2. Question: How does the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) expect EPPs to handle short term (loss of less than one month of time) interruptions to clinical practice and experience due to districts closing in response to the outbreak of COVID-19?

Answer:

All approved Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) programs are designed to meet clinical requirements set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.4*. In short-term emergency situations, EPPs should prioritize the safety and wellness of their teacher candidates and have the discretion to adjust the schedule and make other accommodations to provide candidates an opportunity to meet clinical requirements.

3. Question: In the event of a long-term closure (greater than one month) how should EPPs address remaining clinical experience, clinical practice or internship hours?

Answer:

EPPs have the discretion to make necessary accommodations for candidates impacted by school closures. For example, candidates may complete the requirement in an alternative placement or procedures may be established for returning candidates to earn hours in the following semester. For candidates in their final semester of the program, EPPs also have the discretion to determine appropriate activities, assignments, and/or alternate (virtual/distant) placement necessary to satisfy the clinical component of the program.

4. Question: In the event a candidate's final clinical placement school closes long-term prior to edTPA submission, how should EPPs address program completion and recommendation for certification?

Answer:

All candidates are responsible for meeting certification requirements to be recommended by the EPP for licensure. The NJDOE is currently unable to waive this requirement, and is working with stakeholders to find solutions and additional flexibilities as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Candidates unable to submit edTPA due to long-term placement school or university closures have the following options:

- Complete clinical practice virtually and utilize [edTPA's guidance for virtual classroom settings](#). Contact edTPA directly for additional questions and guidance; or
- The candidate may apply on their own for certification, in which case they will be issued a certificate of eligibility and a letter allowing them to teach but requiring them to pass edTPA and complete all other provisional requirements to earn their standard certification. If EPPs choose to exempt individual candidates from edTPA for

program completion, given their specific extenuating circumstances, EPPs may not recommend the candidate for certification through the Online Teacher Licensing for Approved Programs (TLAP) application.

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5. **(New) Question:** Will the state consider extending the April 1, 2020 program approval submission deadline?

Answer:

The NJDOE will extend the deadline to May 1, 2020, for program approval submission. The NJDOE will continue to work closely with individual preparation providers that may need more time to submit. The NJDOE is actively working to support and accommodate the needs of each preparation provider during this uncertain time.

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6. **(New) Question:** In the event of a long-term institutional closure, how will candidates complete the Physiology and Hygiene assessment for program completion and certification?

Answer:

The NJDOE is encouraging programs to provide an online assessment option and is currently in the process of developing a statewide online physiology and hygiene exam. The NJDOE will keep providers updated about this option.

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7. **(New) Question:** What will happen to my application's six-month expiration date during this time?

Answer:

- For applicants applying on March 18, 2020 and afterwards: The Office of Educator Certification will ensure that the Teacher Certification Information System issuance and payment processes will **not** expire these applications in six months. The application period will be extended for one month.
- For all current applications that are incomplete and will expire during this time: The Office of Educator Certification will review all requests and will provide refund or credit notes as appropriate. Please contact us via our email at Licensing.Requests@doe.nj.gov.

Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (APSSDs)

1. **Question:** How should APSSDs ensure the provision of services to students upon closure of all schools?

Answer:

APSSDs must remain in communication with their sending school districts during this time to determine how to meet the needs of their students in a manner that is consistent with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and the Mandated Tuition Contract to the most appropriate extent possible. Those communications should be guided by the district's emergency preparedness plan and the provisions of this FAQ document. Instruction that is provided to students during school closure due to COVID-19 as part of the APSSD's documented discussion and agreement with the sending district will be considered allowable costs and each day that such agreed-upon services are available to students will count toward the 180-day requirement for APSSDs.

2. **Question:** How should APSSDs maintain business operations during this time?

Answer:

APSSDs should maintain business operations in a manner that will enable their independent auditor and the New Jersey Department of Education to ensure compliance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:14* and *6A:23A-18* to the maximum extent possible. This also means ensuring that APSSD staff maintains documentation of services provided to students and the duration, as well as, time worked by APSSD staff in the office or remotely.

3. **Question:** How should meals be provided to APSSD students during this time?

Answer:

APSSDs should work with the student's sending districts to ensure that students who need meals have access at the school district level.

4. **Question:** What should APSSDs do about one-to-one aides for students?

Answer:

The plan for provision of any related services to students in APSSDs should be discussed with and agreed to by the sending district.

5. **(New) Question:** Are Approved Private Schools for Students with disabilities (APSSDs) permitted to implement a Board-approved additional Paid Time Off (PTO) policy that will cover time off specifically during the COVID-19 school closures and have the PTO policy deemed as an allowable cost?

Answer:

Yes, APSSDs may implement a Board-approved policy to provide leave during the COVID-19 school closures pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.5(f)13*. APSSDs should submit the Board-approved policy for Commissioner’s approval as soon as possible to allow for approval prior to the close of the 2019-2020 school year. Such policies should conform to the following guidelines:

- APSSD staff that are currently working during the COVID-19 school closures shall document time worked pursuant to the Department’s guidance, and not use COVID-19 leave time;
- APSSD staff that are not working due to an illness not related to COVID-19, or on a scheduled vacation, shall use PTO, vacation, or sick time in accordance with APSSD’s existing policies, and not use COVID-19 leave time;
- For audit purposes, APSSDs shall maintain documentation of employees paid COVID-19 leave that protects employee health information and any details or delineation that may be necessary; and
- COVID-19 leave shall be used only during a mandated closure of the school due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public-health related closure.
 - APSSDs that voluntarily closed prior to such mandated closure should utilize existing PTO, sick, or other leave during that time, based on the APSSD’s existing policy

6. **(New) Question:** If an hourly APSSD employee does not work during the school closures, what are the options for getting paid during this timeframe?

Answer:

APSSDs and staff should consult the [New Jersey Department of Labor’s COVID-19 website](#) for information on benefits for non-salaried employees that are impacted by the COVID-19 school closures and not covered by the APSSD’s COVID-19 leave policy.

7. (New) Question: What should be done about APSSD employees charged as extraordinary services pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(a)5*?

Answer:

APSSDs should attempt to provide these services remotely or virtually to the maximum extent possible and should work with the sending district board of education to do so in accordance with the Special Education guidance in this FAQ.

8. (New) Question: Will A-3813 impact APSSDs?

Answer:

The Department is closely monitoring any developing legislation and will update these FAQs with guidance as it becomes available.

9. (New) Question: What other resources are available to APSSDs at this time?

Answer:

The Department encourages APSSDs that encounter questions not answered by the FAQ to send questions to doe.pssd@doe.nj.gov, to review existing regulations and guidance for APSSDs, and to utilize the following State resources:

- [NJ Department of Labor's COVID-19 website](#)
- [NJ Department of State's Information for NJ Businesses](#)

Board Operations

1. Question: What options are available to boards of education to conduct business while minimizing the general public's exposure during this period?

Answer:

School boards will likely need to hold public meetings to conduct business on various matters, such as developing a budget for the upcoming school year. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), public meetings may be held in person or by means of communications equipment, including streaming services and other online meeting platforms. All meetings, including those held using communications equipment, must be noticed in a manner consistent with the requirement of the OPMA, unless the meeting is for emergent circumstances and held in a manner consistent with the requirements set forth at *N.J.S.A. 10:4-9(b)*. Boards of education should also provide guidance to the public for remotely accessing and providing comment at the meeting. Boards of education should still have an advertised meeting place, which, is connected to the meeting through

communications equipment, unless otherwise directed by state or local emergency management or health officials, consistent with [Executive Order 103](#).

Boards of education are reminded that they are required to provide a means of public comment even if a meeting is held remotely. Further, if a board of education currently records the audio or video of its meetings, we recommend that it continue to record a remote meeting.

If a board of education that is meeting remotely requires an executive or closed session, the board must use a mechanism that ensures the confidentiality of closed session. To this end, after announcing the executive or closed session at the public portion of the meeting consistent with the OPMA, a board of education may consider using a separate, non-public, dial-in mechanism for the executive or closed portion of the meeting.

In preparation for upcoming meetings, boards of education are encouraged to coordinate with legal counsel and local offices of emergency management to ensure continued compliance with *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6* and other statutory obligations.

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- 2. Question:** What mechanisms are available to ensure that a school district’s business operations continue?

Answer:

There are several business office functions that would need to continue during a school closure, such as developing the FY 2021 budget, processing payroll, and procurement. In planning for an emergency closure, a school district should identify functions that may be completed remotely and perform any required steps to implement such remote access. If certain tasks can only be completed in a school district facility, then the district should make plans to ensure the necessary personnel have access to the building.

(New) Nonpublic School Guidance

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- 1. Question:** How should school districts provide auxiliary and remedial services (chapters 192 and 193) to students enrolled in nonpublic schools?

Answer:

Districts should consult with their contracted service providers and their nonpublic schools in developing a plan to provide services to students consistent with each student’s individual service plan

2. Question: What is the NJDOE’s guidance regarding the provision of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) equitable services for nonpublic school students if school buildings close and students receive online or virtual instruction?

Answer:

Per the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) sections 1117(a)(1)(A) and 8501(a)(1), a public school district (LEA) must provide services that meet the needs of students and teachers. In the case of a nonpublic school closing due to COVID-19, the nonpublic school administrator should immediately consult with the LEA that is the steward of the funds. It is the LEA’s responsibility to ensure that nonpublic equitable services are provided. The provision of virtual services should be leveraged in direct consultation between the LEA and nonpublic school officials.

3. Question: What state-funded nonpublic nursing services may be provided during mandated school closures?

Answer:

Please note that state nonpublic nursing aid may only be used for the services identified in *N.J.S.A. 18A:40-23 et seq.* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5*, as determined during the nonpublic consultation between the responsible school district and nonpublic school. Documented time worked by nonpublic school nurses providing COVID-19-related health information to state, county and local officials during school closures are considered services pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.5(a)3i* and *iii*.

School districts and nonpublic schools that wish to make any alterations to the nonpublic nursing agreement between the nonpublic school and the school district must maintain adherence to state law and regulations and should engage in consultation to discuss their options.

4. Question: What about nonpublic school security, textbook and technology aid programs?

Answer:

School districts, nonpublic schools and public and private service providers should prioritize the provision of instruction, related, compensatory and auxiliary (chapter 192 and 193) services to public and nonpublic school students before procurement for nonpublic school programs that are unrelated to instruction.

School districts may agree with nonpublic schools to utilize nonpublic technology aid and textbook aid designated for another purpose for the 2019-2020 school year to make purchases designed to assist with remote learning at nonpublic schools during COVID-19

closures. Such purchases will remain subject to all [nonpublic school programs](#) guidance and school districts should adhere to the [Department of Community Affairs' emergency procurement guidance](#).

- 5. Question:** Where can school districts, nonpublic schools and service providers obtain further information regarding nonpublic services during COVID-19 school closures?
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Answer:

School districts, nonpublic schools and service providers are encouraged to review existing state law, regulations and guidance for [nonpublic school programs](#), maintain communication regarding the provision of services to students, and email nonpublic@doe.nj.gov with any questions.