COVID-19 RESPONSE

Presentation to the Board of Regents
April 6, 2020
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
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 nearly 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

- 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
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 Todor, 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

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

- 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: 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
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. When you stay home? #WhatImStayingHomeFor #COVID19 #stayconnected #stayhome @WSWHEBOCES

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Mar 31
Did you know @NYSSEDNews offers fun games and activities to help your child learn at home? Check them out at abcnews.go/21gH554 #Topofshow

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Mar 31
Did you know @WMHTPubMedia WMHT is offering even more educational programming for students in grades Pre-K through 12. More information is available at wmht.org/homeclassroom NYLearnRemotely

NYS Education Department @NYSEDNews · Mar 31
Starting Monday, March 23, WMHT will offer even more educational programming for students in grades Pre-K through 12.

wmht.org/homeclassroom