



## Department of Education call on COVID-19 March 20, 2020

<https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>

US Dept of Education, CDC, OCR, and USDA info, etc.

Daniella Garcia – Assistant Secretary of Outreach, facilitator

### US Dept of Education

#### **Betsy Devos - Secretary of Education**

- President Trump and this admin taking a whole government approach, with your partnership and our leadership, we will get through it together and stronger
- Teachers and school leaders across America are experiencing unprecedented disruptions
- USDOE is a resource
- Support & flexibility
- Continue to communicate questions and solutions
- Learning will continue/ but many states will be unable to administer statewide assessments (will have federal relief from the testing mandates [waiver applications] through ESEA) – announced 3/20/20
- Will grant states with school closures, very broad relief from state standards – applying for waiver will be very simple, basically a “check-the-box” exercise
- Relevance – keeping the President’s commitment and promise for student loan relief to millions of borrowers
- Student loan relief (at least 1 month relief and 60 days @ 0% interest rates) – announced 3/20/20
- Federally held student interest rates for 60 days – can stop making payments without incurring penalty or seeing add’l interest accrue (0% interest)
- Be positive, be creative in solving problems facing each day, reach out to US DOE to communicate needs of those you serve

### US Dept of Education

#### **Mick Zais – Deputy Secretary of Education**

- Head of DOE’s CV-19 working group to identify solutions to new and extraordinary circumstances, working to provide helpful information and guidance
- CV info @ ed.gov · Covid-19@ed.gov (have already shared that)
- email questions to: [Covid-19@ed.gov](mailto:Covid-19@ed.gov) These will be forwarded to the appropriate office at the DOE for a response

### US Dept of Education

#### **Frank Brogan – Asst. Secretary of Elementary & Secondary Education**

- We have all seen how rapidly the situation continues to change
- Closely monitoring and will get out info as quickly as possible
- Released a fact sheet last week -flexibility in ESEA; conducted several calls with governors, CCSSO, and educational leadership – provide answers to outstanding questions we receive; field – providing flexibility with federal grants within our control
- Widespread school closures, some for the remainder of the school year
- Waiver – assessments, accountability, and reporting for the 2019-20 SY for the ESEA – relief from the most pressing federal requirements – process is simple and expeditious – mark the box for the desired waivers; Dept., will review and provide a response within 1 business day, relative to the specific waivers due to CV-19; other waivers will follow regular procedures/timelines
- Waivers for testing possible – must be submitted by the SEA (will cover the LEAs, including charter schools) – rapid turnaround · Accountability Waivers – [OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov](mailto:OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov)
- Fact sheet on flexibilities in the ESEA Act

### Center for Disease Control

**Nancy Messonnier, MD, Director of the Center for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)**

- globally, 200k cases of COVID-19 reported around the world·
- 14k cases across all 50 states, DC, Guam, USVI, PR affected
- Outbreak acceleration, 219 related deaths this morning 3-20-2020, Large increase of 4k since yesterday – some parts of US harder hit than others
- Spreads easily from person-to-person; people of all ages can get this illness, though older populations more vulnerable
- Follow the guidelines:
  - 15 days to slow the spread, lays out guidelines for nationwide efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19:
  - increase social distancing
  - Don't let children congregate in large groups outside of school – if playdates, keep them small
- Provision of academic support
- Support for families
- Special considerations for health care workers and emergency responders – ensure school closures don't impact their ability to go to work
- Promote resiliency and reduce stress
- Aborting core contact for people who are sick
- Enforcing routine habits
- This eventually will end – not too early to start talking about the future – once we go back to re-opening schools– look at the situation every two weeks, changing rapidly; can't predict a timeline

- In coordination with local health officials – decisions made in coordination and collaboration
- “Communications with family, staff, and other partners are key” – taking care of things, ensuring classrooms are disinfected so children can return to a safe environment
- Stressing our society in all kinds of ways – count on all of you to reduce stress, increase resiliency, support community
- Good communication is key

## Office of Civil Rights

### **Ken Marcus – Asst. Secretary for OCR**

- Aware of strain you are under in dealing with this national emergency
- Contributions to repository that Dr. Zais explained earlier
- Statement to ed leaders – series of incidents where Chinese and Asian Americans experiencing bullying in schools; urged attentiveness – Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Responded early to bullying of Asian Americans and Asians (late February)
- Online education and website accessibility resources on March 11th, webinar – issues related to online education and accessibility
- Move to online ed is an important and useful one with responsibility under federal civil rights law – resource to find practical ways to achieving those results
- OCR Resources for accessibility – open center – open@ed.gov
- Fact Sheet – anti-bullying (Title VI), and rights of SWD (supplement to OSERS Fact Sheet – posted on NTACT’s website) - OSERS – issued its own fact sheet, OCR supplements, – documents are consistent, regardless of different language

## U.S. Dept of Education

### **Mark Schultz – Acting Asst. Secretary for OSERS/ OSEP Director Laurie VanderPloeg**

- Q&A Document outlines states’ responsibilities under IDEA Parts B & C, section 504 Rehab Act, & Title II; these do not address FAPE for SWD when there’s a school closure.
- Decisions made based on the needs of SWD, providing equal access to the same opportunities and providing services identified in IEP or 504
- If LEA cannot provide, individual decisions to what extent compensatory services are provided
- Provide services, if others are receiving education. When school resumes make every effort to...look at Q&A
- Should a distance learning plan be in the IEP, yes, – IEP may but aren’t required to include distance learning plans as part of the IEP (see guidance)
- Contingency plan...
- Specific supports/resources may or may not be provided with IDEA funds, is dependent on the support/resource. LEA may use IDEA part B funds to provide health information for SWD, who may need such information, including school staff, parents of eligible



children, etc. May not use IDEA funds for dissemination of health guidance for all children, not specific to SWD (see guidance)

- Submit funding questions to COVID-19 mailbox – IDEA fiscal reporting center can also answer questions
- OSERS to identify 2 TA Centers: one for Part B and one for Part C – as a single point of contact to support - models for additional support, instruction access and data
  - Part B: NCSI National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) at [ncsi.wested.org](https://ncsi.wested.org).
  - Part C: Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) at [ectacenter.org](https://ectacenter.org).

## U.S. Dept of Education

### **Acting Asst. Secretary of Privacy Office**

- FERPA and COVID-19 FAQ
- View older (2014) document – online learning and student privacy (posted at NTACT's website)

## US Department of Agriculture

### **Deputy Under-Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services - USDA**

- Committed to continuing to provide free breakfasts and lunches
- Flexibilities for job loss – SNAP extensions and assistance
- Program Partnership at the Food and Nutrition Services for state agencies see the following websites:
  - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-019220>
  - [www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus)
  - [feedingkids@usda.gov](mailto:feedingkids@usda.gov)
- To get family boxes of food for a couple of weeks, visit: [www.mealstoyou.org](https://www.mealstoyou.org)

## **Resources**

Resources below were compiled from websites referenced on the March 20, 2020 national TA call combined with those listed at <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.

### **US DOE COVID-19 Information and Resources:** <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>

- Department releases COVID-19, IDEA-related Q-and-A –scroll down for many resources: <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/departments-releases-covid-19-idea-related-q/>
- Key Policy Letters Signed by the Education Secretary or Deputy Secretary: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/secletter/200320.html>
- Broad flexibilities provided to states to [bypass ESSA mandated testing](#) for the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19 national emergency. States education leaders can find the [waiver application here](#). (March 20, 2020)

- Student Privacy in online educational services:  
[https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource\\_document/file/Student%20Privacy%20and%20Online%20Educational%20Services%20%28February%202014%29\\_0.pdf](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/Student%20Privacy%20and%20Online%20Educational%20Services%20%28February%202014%29_0.pdf)
- FERPA & Virtual Learning  
[https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource\\_document/file/FERPA%20%20Virtual%20Learning%20032020\\_FINAL.pdf](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20%20Virtual%20Learning%20032020_FINAL.pdf)
- FERPA & Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
[https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource\\_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf)
- Protecting Student Privacy: FERPA and the Coronavirus (March 12, 2020);  
[https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource\\_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf)
- ESEA Fact Sheet <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/03/COVID-19-OESE-FINAL-3.12.20.pdf>
- OCR Fact Sheet <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-coronavirus-fact-sheet.pdf>
- OCR Fact Sheet Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 in Schools While Protecting the Civil Rights of Students <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-coronavirus-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Fact Sheet: Impact of COVID-19 on Assessments and Accountability under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (March 12, 2020):  
<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/03/COVID-19-OESE-FINAL-3.12.20.pdf>
- Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak (March 12, 2020) <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/q-and-a-providing-services-to-children-with-disabilities-during-the-coronavirus-disease-2019-outbreak/>
- OCR Short Webinar on Online Education and Website Accessibility Webinar (Length: 00:07:08)(March 16, 2020) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCMLk4cES6A>
- CDC guidance on considerations for school closures  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/considerations-for-school-closure.pdf>
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>
- Proactive Flexibilities to Feed Children When Schools Close:  
<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/10/secretary-perdue-announces-proactive-flexibilities-feed-children>



- USDA Announces Feeding Program Partnership in Response to COVID-19:  
[Feedingkids@usda.gov](mailto:Feedingkids@usda.gov)