



Actions to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic in K-12 Public Education

Office of the Governor

March 26, 2020



Executive Order 117

- Issued March 14, 2020
- All K-12 public schools closed until March 30, 2020
 - Included charter schools and lab schools
 - Did not include virtual charter schools, NCVPS, DHHS schools, DPS schools, or private schools
- Created the Governor's Education and Nutrition Working Group



EO 117 Guidance from State Board of Education

- March 16-30, 2020 were by default to be “optional teacher workdays”
- LEAs may reclassify days to mandatory teacher workdays or annual leave days as needed
- Employees remain in work status and are eligible to be paid
- LEAs should provide opportunities for remote work to the extent feasible and / or reassign employees to safe work environments with appropriate duties
- School facilities are closed as *instructional settings* but may be used for other purposes as designated by local boards of education



Governor's Education and Nutrition Working Group

- Co-Chaired by Susan Gale Perry from DHHS and Dr. David Stegall from DPI
- Mission: Ensure the health, safety, educational needs and well-being of children during school or child care closure as directed by Governor Cooper's Executive Order 117.
- Goals:
 - Ensure families have access to safe, affordable child care and out-of-school-time care options, especially our healthcare workers and other front-line workers.
 - Ensure children have access to nutritious food while schools and child care programs are closed.
 - Ensure children continue to participate in structured learning while schools and child care programs are closed.



Executive Order 120

- Issued March 23, 2020
- Extended school closure period until May 15, 2020
- Governor also directed State Board of Education in collaboration with DPI to develop a plan to
 - Develop a plan to ensure access to a quality education for students through the remainder of the school year
 - Provide students with remote learning while school buildings are closed
 - Ensure that all school employees – including janitors, bus drivers, teaching assistants and cafeteria workers -- will work in safe environments and be paid



Flexible Funding for Public School Response

- Created \$50 million flexible funding allotment on March 24, 2020
- Funds can be used for
 - Child nutrition services
 - Remote learning
 - Emergency childcare
 - Cleaning and sanitizing
- Granted additional flexibility in other key allotment categories, including Textbooks and Digital Resources, School Technology, Transportation, At-Risk, DSSF, and Low-Wealth Supplemental Funding



The NC State Board of Education

COVID-19 NC Education Response Team

Presentation to the House Select Committee on Education

Thursday, March 26th, 2020

Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith

Freebird McKinney



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction



SBE ACTION

- **Monday, March 23rd, 2020**

- Unanimously approved a one-year waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for federal student testing and accountability requirements for 2019-20.

- **Monday, March 23rd, 2020**

- NC Department of Public Instruction submitted this waiver and the U.S. Department of Education granted.



Temporary NC Testing Waivers

- **NC EOC/ EOG/ NCFE Testing Temporary (2019-2020 Academic School Year) Waivers**
 - Addressed through [Federal Waiver Application](#) approved at NC State Board Meeting on 3/23/2020.
 - The North Carolina tests that would be waived include:
 - End-of-Grade (EOG) tests in reading and math in grades 3rd through 8th.
 - Science tests in grades 5th and 8th
 - End-of-Course (EOC) tests in NC Math 1 and NC Math 3
 - Ends- of-Course (EOC) tests Biology and English II
 - ALL North Carolina Final Exams (NCFE's)
- **Temporary Suspension of K-3 Diagnostic Assessment Requirements (2019-2020 Academic School Year)**



Accountability and School Report Card Waivers

- **School Accountability and School Report Card Temporary Suspension (2019-2020 Academic School Year)**
 - Do not issue A-F school performance grades for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Hold schools and districts harmless under the A-F accountability requirements and any designation of low-performing schools that would otherwise subject that school for possible inclusion in the Innovative School District (ISD).



School Calendar Flexibility

- **Provide NC Public Schools Calendar Flexibility (2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Academic School Years)**
 - Aligned with “School Closure Order” until May 18th, 2020.
 - **EX. SB 2: School Calendar & Pay/Hurricane Florence - SL 2018-135**
 - This will also account for Year-Round School Calendar School Flexibility
 - This includes provision to design 2020-2021 Academic School Year “Extended Education Plan” granting permission to begin instructional days as early as the beginning of August, 2020, with built-in flexibility (teacher work days) and sliding end date to account for hurricanes, inclement weather, or further COVID-19 impact.



Waivers for 185 Day/ 1,025 Hour Minimums

- **Provide waivers for the minimum 185 days or 1,025 instructional hours for the 2019-20 school year.**
 - [§ 115C-84.2. School calendar](#)
 - [SB 2: School Calendar & Pay/Hurricane Florence](#) - SL 2018-135

Senate Bill 2 includes the following hurricane relief measures for our schools:

- Educators and employees will be compensated the same as if they had worked any scheduled instructional days deemed completed by the public school unit during September and October of 2018.
- Flexibility in the school calendar
- 20-day calendar waivers to school districts in counties under federal disaster declarations, for making up missed class time
- Option for school districts to make up the missed instructional days or hours.
- School districts located outside the hard-hit areas that missed class time will only be required to make up two days of school or the necessary 185 instructional days, whichever is lower.



Temporary Suspension of Teacher Evaluation Process

- Suspend EVAAS for the 2019-20 school year.
- Waive any abbreviated and full observation requirements for any teacher in their contract renewal cycle.
- Provide waivers for state-required beginning teacher observations.
- Grant licensure flexibility for teachers who are up for renewal this year and next year due to lack of ability to secure continuing credits.



Student Teaching Requirements

- Temporarily waive in-service Educational Preparation Program (EPP) training requirements for principals and teachers
- Temporarily waive the 16 week requirement for certification
- Temporarily waive the results of the EdTPA
- Temporarily waive PRAXIS II testing requirements
- EX. [SB 2: School Calendar & Pay/Hurricane Florence](#) - SL 2018-135
 - Students of North Carolina university Educator Preparation Programs who were impacted by the storm, are no longer required to complete the full 16 week internship in order to graduate with the internship requirement being deemed “completed”.



Public Schools of North Carolina

The NC Department of Public Instruction

*UPDATE to House Select Committee on
Education*

*Dr. Beverly Emory
Deputy Superintendent*



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Education

Department of Public Instruction

COVID-19 Response

Working Groups

- Senior Grades/ Graduation
- Operations (Child Nutrition, Transportation, and Facilities)
- Remote Learning
- “May 18th Return” Plan (Logistics, Pay, and Operations; Soft-Reentry Plan; and Statewide Teacher Team)
- Policy/ Legislation
- Funding



COVID-19 Response

Working Groups

-Continued-

- Exceptional Children
 - 2020-2021 Academic Year- “NC Extended Education Calendar”
 - Communications
 - Accountability
 - Professional Development
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- Led by Dr. Bev Emory and Dr. David Stegall



Overview of DPI Efforts

- **Plan for Seniors and Graduation**
- **Public School Employee Compensation**
- **Definition of “Remote Learning”**
- **Funding Flexibility**





Questions and Resources

- **Education Resources:**

[NC DPI COVID-19 Response and Resources](#)