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March 20, 2020

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

Thanks for joining the call with the Governor today. He really wanted to speak to you directly to say thank you for your tireless efforts and share his thoughts on this situation. Here is a quick follow up to the call today and then we will schedule a call with me on Thursday next week for more details. However, if you have clarifications or questions that I'm not answering here, please send those to penn_j@cde.state.co.us. He will compile and get them all to me at once and we will address them in the call next week, as we have the answers. My inbox, like yours, is crazy right now and I don't want to miss anything from you.

A couple points of clarification:

I heard the concerns on the call about the immediate needs of students and families. The health and safety of your students and communities SHOULD be first. I also clearly understand the variability of district capabilities regarding remote learning. Our guidance will be based on that first and foremost.

- There will be a statewide instructional hour/day requirement waiver. We are working on the specific guidance, expectations and minimal documentation we'd request. Many of you have given us feedback on what guidance, flexibility and framing would be important and thus we are taking a little more time to craft the guidance and provide useful resources. We want district input so we are working to get it through my Superintendents and Rural Councils. We are also trying to get clarity from the US DOE on support of students with disabilities and English learners during this challenging time. Many, many of you have questions on this. Thus, we are taking the time we need to address it thoroughly.
- We will not be mandating attendance or requiring you to track attendance for CDE, although we think that keeping track of participation will be important for you all to know for instructional purposes. You have the authority to move students up in grade levels as you deem appropriate. The Governor was focused on the utility of continuing some of the same practices you use to support student engagement and track student learning—even during this difficult time.
- We are working on the following waivers/flexibility/process/etc. below. We have found that things that may seem simple have a lot of tertiary implications and so we are trying to take the time to be thoughtful, and get district feedback from my Superintendents and Rural Councils so that we don't send something out that is incorrect, not feasible, or too burdensome. Because this crisis is now likely longer term, we think we can use next week to get some of this right. We are actively working on:
 - Educator evaluations



- Instructional time guidance
- Supporting special education, 504 and EL students
- Use of Tabor Reserves
- Graduation implications
- License renewal
- Grant processes and funding
- Data collection and grant monitoring cycles
- READ Act Requirements
- Federal grants, programs and title program administration
- Ways to preserve some options on PSAT/SAT for students

Some of this guidance (Such as the READ act assessments) have been in the recent [CDE Update](#). Additionally, some of the guidance listed above is dependent on the United States Department of Education (US DOE)—so we are also working with them daily. We don't want to issue guidance and then have the US DOE come out with something that contradicts our guidance or puts districts at legal risk.

At this time, we would like to schedule a conference call with all of you on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. next week. We will send instructions for that call soon. We hope by that time we have a series of guidance out and we can answer your questions more thoroughly.

In the meantime, we will be connecting with my Superintendents Advisory Council and Rural Council on Monday and Tuesday to discuss the instructional guidance and graduation considerations, respectively.

Please share your thoughts or input with your representative so that we have your voice in the conversation.

Thank you again for all you are doing in this unprecedented time.

Take care and be well—We need you!



Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner

