



Foster Care Education Resources for COVID-19 Response

The State of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment are the lead entities and the role of CDE is to inform the conversation. In that role, the Commissioner of Education has been sending out communication to Superintendents.

Information to date for K-12 Education:

- **Meals:** As school districts across Colorado announce school closures to help minimize the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Colorado Department of Education is working to mitigate food insecurity among youth. Colorado received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that allows students to take meals away from meal sites to be consumed elsewhere, allowing for social distancing. The goal of these alternative meal services is to provide meals to children while limiting interaction and proximity to other schoolmates, therefore, decreasing the risk of COVID-19 exposure. For a list of school district specific pick up locations, please click on the following link:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=eaae70d787a643b59359fe09e99b88d1>
- **General Resources:** CDE launched the webpage “COVID-19 Resources for Schools.” That information can be accessed at this link: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools>. CDE will continue to update that webpage in the coming days.
- **FAQ:** CDE started a “COVID-19 FAQ” that they will continue to update. That can be found at this link: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools/covid19-faq>.
- **National Information:** The US Department of Education also has additional resources on their webpage at <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.
- **For Counties:** Each school district across Colorado has a Child Welfare Education Liaison to connect with County Departments of Human Services. This list is kept up-to-date on the Foster Care Education Webpage by scrolling down to the “School District CWEL Designation Information” section and clicking on “Child Welfare Education Liaison (CWEL) Directory”.
- **Contact CDE:** Please contact Kristin Myers (myers_k@cde.state.co.us) if you are aware of any barriers to education for children and youth in foster care during this time.

Information to date for independent youth and college students who may be displaced:

- **Housing Programs:** Young people who are living independently and have become (or are at risk of becoming) displaced due to COVID-19 closures may access resources through Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs. The following link provides information on contacts for organizations across Colorado: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grants/colorado-rhy>

- **Home Hosts:** Adults willing to host displaced youth should also contact these agencies to get more information about licensing/certification and screening.
- **Higher Education and Transition-Aged Youth:** The Chafee and Educational Training Voucher Program provide some direct services to youth. [Click here](#) for more information on Chafee. [Click here](#) for information on the Educational training Voucher Program.