



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education  
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203-1799

March 25, 2020

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

As we all know things change quickly. Many of you are asking about the governor's stay at home order and public health order. You are wondering if this changes what you need to do. The answer is no. Education is considered essential. Though it is not clarified to the extent I thought it would be in this order—they have assured me this is the case. I was on a call with the governor's office a few minutes ago. I am working on getting education explicitly listed in these orders as "essential."

But for now, the order states: "For purposes of this Order, travel is Necessary for any of the following purposes: (1) providing or accessing Necessary Activities, Minimum Basic Operations, Critical Government Functions, and Critical Businesses; (2) receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services from educational institutions; (3) returning to a place of Residence from outside the jurisdiction; (4) travel required by law enforcement or court order; (5) non-residents returning to their place of Residence.

In addition: Performing work providing essential products and services for a Critical Business or Critical Government Function as defined in Section III.C and D, below, or to otherwise carry out activities permitted in this PHO (thus (2) above).

This clearly shows that education is an essential service as long as proper social distancing is taking place.

Thank you,

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

