

U.S. Department of Education Guidance and Regulations Related to COVID-19 School Closures

Topic	Description	Hyperlink to full guidance	Issue date
Student privacy and FERPA	An FAQ that addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consent to view personally identifiable information (PII), the emergency exception (significant threat to students or other individuals in the community, an educational agency) disclosure of a student's illness to others without consent disclosure to parents, health officials limitations of FERPA (student education records) 	https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions_0.pdf	3/12/20
Providing services to students with disabilities	FAQ addressing IDEA part B and Part C state responsibilities to students and their families during the COVID-19 outbreak. The topics include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensatory services in accordance with a child's IEP if a school closes for an extended period of time Service expectations for a SWD who has been infected with COVID-19 if a school remains open LEA responsibilities to SWD when school is closed for precautions (higher risk for illness) IEP contingency plans that may include distance learning Uses and restrictions of IDEA part B and part C funds during COVID-19 outbreak Part C service delivery 	https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf	3/12/20
CDC considerations for school closure	Contains a school closure decision tree, as well as a table that lists factors for consideration (for and against closure) when making closure decision and the duration of the closure.	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/considerations-for-school-closure.pdf	3/13/20
Impact of COVID-19 on assessment and accountability	Fact sheet for states that summarizes the Secretary of Education's waiver authority in ESSA that may be applicable with the COVID-19 outbreak. Topics include:	https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/03/COVID-19-OESE-FINAL-3.12.20.pdf	3/12/20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions under which an assessment waiver would be considered • Potential for waiving identification of schools for comprehensive and targeted support in school accountability • Consideration of waiving certain accountability components (i.e. participation rate and chronic absenteeism). • Identification of other fiscal requirements that may be open to flexibility including MOE, carryover, and period of performance. NOTE: no specifics given here. 		
CDC Interim Guidance for School Administrators	Comprehensive resource for district and school administrators that includes FAQs, checklists, talking points, cleaning recommendations and other materials. The site is audience specific (schools, FBOs, shelters, colleges, etc). The site summarizes recent changes at the top and the dates the revisions were made.	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html	3/12/20
Flexibilities for meal service during school closure	During an unexpected school closure, schools can leverage their participation in one of USDA's summer meal programs to provide meals at no cost to students. Tennessee has requested and received a waiver. All food and nutrition programs have flexibilities: SNAP, WIC, and NSLP. These flexibilities are in effect through June 20, 2020 – though specifics are not included here.	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html	3/10/20
Discrimination resulting from COVID-19	Letter to state leadership on ensuring school environment is free from harassment and discrimination – particularly at students and others of Asian descent. Letter includes link to resources for school leaders to ensure a learning environment that is safe. Letter also references requirements in OCR.	https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/bulletins/27f5130	3/4/20