



# NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S REOPENING SCHOOLS TASK FORCE

## *RECOVERING, REBUILDING & RENEWING THE SPIRIT OF OUR SCHOOLS*

June 2020



New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



*Chancellor Rosa and Interim Commissioner Tahoe recently announced the formation of a Task Force to help guide schools as they continue to educate our students – whether in person, remotely, or some combination of the two.*

*Four regional Task Force meetings will be comprised of parents, teachers, school and district leaders, school board members, and other interested parties from every region of the State.*

*By working together with these partners, we will ensure that the issues of health, safety, and educational equity always come first.*

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The health, safety, and well-being of the children and adults in our educational community is paramount.
2. We will always keep the issue of educational equity at the forefront of our thinking and decision-making.
3. We recognize that one size does not fit all. New York is a large state, in population and size. We will always consider the tremendous diversity that exists among our people, our geographic regions, and our schools and school districts. While it is important to provide districts with guidelines and policies, it is important as well to give them appropriate leeway to develop creative solutions to their unique challenges.
4. We will enable and encourage districts to work directly with parents, teachers, administrators, and their local communities to develop and deliver workable solutions to their unique needs. We will succeed through our collective effort.
5. We will proceed with the understanding that planning for schools to reopen is not a one-time event. We will continuously monitor the situation and provide updated guidance, policies, and regulatory changes as the situation requires.

## GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE

### **Goal:**

The Task Force will provide the Board of Regents and the Education Department with thoughtful and inclusive input needed to develop the guidance and regulatory changes that will enable New York's school districts, charter schools, and non-public schools to safely open their schools.

# PHASES OF WORK

## Phase I:

**4 Regional Task Force Meetings will gather stakeholder feedback**

*June 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00 p.m. and 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 -11:30 a.m.*

## Phase II:

**The R2CC synthesizes the feedback from the meetings. The Department develops guidance and regulatory changes**

## Phase III:

**Board of Regents  
regulatory and policy discussion**

*July 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Regents Meeting.*

## AREAS OF FOCUS:

The Regents and the Department will consider the following areas of focus as they develop the guidance and regulatory changes that will enable New York's school districts to safely open their schools.

Health and Safety

Transportation/  
Facilities/Nutrition

Teaching and  
Learning

Digital Equity and  
Access

Budget and Fiscal

Social-Emotional  
Needs

Special Education

Bilingual Education/  
MLL/ELL

Staffing/Human  
Resources

## IN CLOSING:

*While no one can predict the new challenges that may arise over the coming weeks and months, it is imperative that we plan for a safe and orderly return to school.*

*Without question, the paramount concern is to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our educational community.*

*Together, we will create a framework to help guide school districts in the safe reopening of their schools.*