# Recover, Rebuild, and Renew the Spirit of Our Schools

## Update on School Reopening: P12 and Higher Education

**Presentation to the Board of Regents**

**September 14, 2020**

New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

# Development of the P12 Guidance

Informed by four virtual regional educator and student forums, attended by over 1,000 parents, students, teachers, administrators, and stakeholders, representing New York's diversity.

The Region 2 Comprehensive Center, led by WestEd, provided a synthesis of the information gathered at the 4 Regional Task Force Meetings and the Student Forum.

P-12 program offices worked along with multiple SED program offices to develop draft guidance to best support students and schools.

Guidance is student centered with equity and flexibility at the heart of the guidance.

# Guidance Issued

*"RECOVERING, REBUILDING, AND RENEWING: THE SPIRIT OF NEW YORK'S SCHOOLS REOPENING GUIDANCE"* was *released on July 16, 2020.*
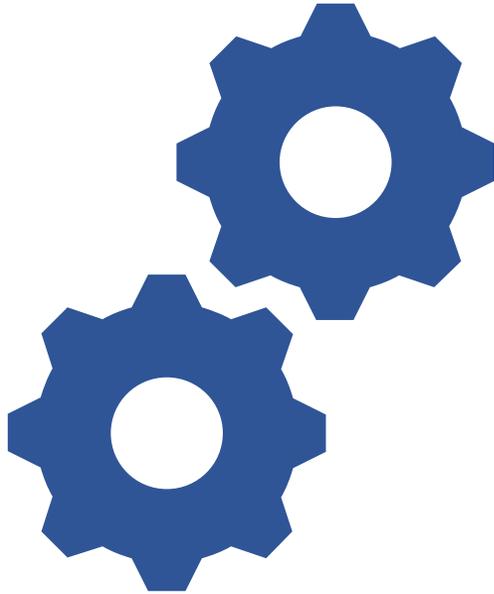
# Revisions to the Guidance

- **P12 Program Offices are developing *"RECOVERING, REBUILDING, AND RENEWING: THE SPIRIT OF NEW YORK'S SCHOOLS REOPENING GUIDANCE: Version 2".***

- **When final, Version 2 will be available on NYSED's Reopening Guidance website at http://www.nysed.gov/reopening-schools**

- **This document will be updated on a regular basis.**

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- In July, NYSED collaborated with the Governor's Office to issue two FAQs to clarify health and safety issues.

- The P12 Program Areas have developed additional  FAQs that will be posted on NYSED's Reopening Guidance website.

# Reopening Plan Portal

## 100% OF PLANS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

**BOCES**
- 37 BOCES
- 37 Submitted Assurances and Links

**Districts/Charters**
- 1,029 total entities
- 930 Submitted Assurances and Links
- 99 Never Submitted Assurances and Links (these are the SUNY-authorized Charters)

**Links to Plans**
- 3,332 school/district/site plan links are posted.
  - This includes BOCES, districts, schools, and charters

# Reopening Plan Portal

**Special Acts** are among the counts of regular districts since they are considered LEAs. There are 9 special acts and all submitted Reopening Surveys.

**Non-publics** – **Submitted**

- **1,239 for Religious and Independent Schools**

- **99 state operated**

- **Plus an additional 50 paper submissions**

- **About 492 Religious and Independent Schools not submitted**

- **About 134 Independent Schools not submitted**

**SPED Schools** - All 853 Schools, 4201 Schools, and 4410 programs submitted Reopening Surveys.

- Both State Operated Schools also submitted.

- We are currently checking to see that all web links are working and all sites associated with these schools are reflected in the plans.
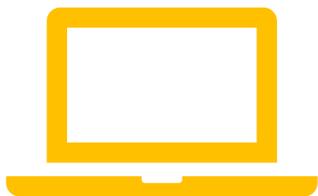
# Digital Equity – P12 Data

P12 School Digital Equity Survey - June 2020

- 50% of schools responded
  - 300K+ students did not have a device
  - 200K+ students did not have internet access
  - Top barrier: Cost

Ongoing Data Collection

- Fall 2020 BEDS (School-Level)

- Fall 2021 Student-Level Data

# Addressing Digital Equity

## Webinar Series

The NY State Library has planned a series of webinars on topics related to Digital Equity.
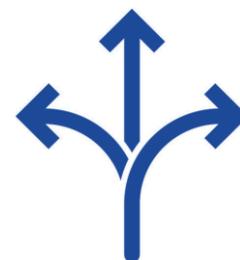
## Digital Equity Summit

NYSED will bring together key stakeholder groups to identify key issues and develop strategies for addressing digital equity in New York.

## TRLE Grant

The Teaching in Remote Learning Environments program will provide educators with tools, resources, and training to facilitate blended/remote instruction.

## Funding Flexibility

NYSED has issued guidance to schools and districts related to fiscal flexibilities for federal funding sources to assist with technology-related expenses.

## Sharing Ideas

NYSED will build on successful Continuity of Learning site to provide ideas, resources, and best practices for teachers, schools, and communities.

# Reopening Plans: In-person, Remote, or Hybrid?

- On September 9th, NYSED issued the *2020-21 School Reopening – Instructional Models* survey through the SED Monitoring and Vendor Reporting System ("the Portal") to collect information about the reopening models that will be deployed at each school/site.

- The survey was published to all BOCES, School Districts, Charter Schools, Special Act Districts, 853 schools, 4201 schools, 4410 programs, and State Operated Schools – more than 1300 entities.

- This short survey will collect the following school/site information:

  - the first calendar day of school for 2020-21;
  - the instructional model (in-person, hybrid, or remote) reflected in the most recent reopening plan that was communicated to parents and other stakeholders; and
  - the planned end date for using a fully remote instructional model, if applicable.

| Instructional Model | Count* | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| In-Person | 996 | 18.2 |
| Hybrid | 3,643 | 66.7 |
| Remote | 826 | 15.1 |
| Totals | 5,465 | 100 |

*\* The count of sites/schools communicated by 940 of 1,305 entities as of September 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM.*

# HIGHER EDUCATION

# Higher Education Guidance Developed and Released

Informed by **four virtual regional meetings** in early July, attended by almost 900 faculty, administrators, students, staff, and stakeholders, representing more than 170 institutions.

Region 2 Comprehensive Center, led by WestEd, synthesized information gathered at the 4 regional meetings. Additional input was gathered on ThoughtExchange platform.

Higher Ed program offices worked with Office of Professions to **develop guidance** to best support students and institutions.

**Equity and flexibility** are at the heart of the guidance, which was issued in early August on the Office of Higher Ed website.

# Guidance Issued

"*Guidance for New York State Colleges and Universities on Reopening for the 2020-21 Academic Year*" *was released in August 2020.*

*This document will be updated periodically.*
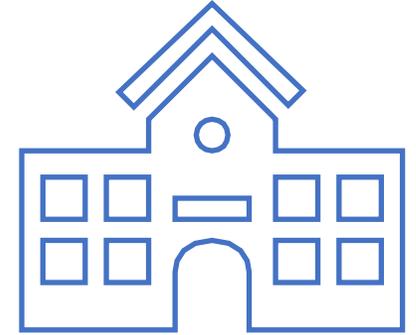
# Guidance Highlights

- **Health & Safety:** Colleges were required to file health & safety plans before re-opening. Plans required protocols related to: Re-opening, Monitoring, Containment, Shutdown Contingencies.

- **Academics:** Institutions have flexibility to offer online courses for Fall 2020 semester.

- **Financial Aid:** Institutions may shorten Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters from a minimum of 15 weeks to no less than 12 weeks without impacting student eligibility for NYS financial aid.

- **Educator Preparation Program Clinical Experiences:** Programs may use alternative models which include clinical simulations, analyzing videos of best practice, and assisting cooperating teachers with remote or virtual learning.

- **Professions Clinical Experiences:** Programs may request consideration of flexibilities related to professional licensure clinical experiences, such as extended timelines for completing clinical hour requirements or alternative methods appropriate to the profession (simulation, tele-practice/tele-supervision, etc.). In order to ensure public safety, clinical experiences must be consistent with regulatory standards.

# Campus Health and Safety Requirements and Protocols

| | |
|---|---|
| Health and Safety Requirements | • All colleges were required to submit re-opening plans to NYSDOH or SUNY/CUNY<br>• Governor set threshold for colleges to return to remote learning for 2 weeks if campus COVID cases reach 100 or 5% of population<br>• Colleges must now report daily campus COVID testing and diagnoses to NYSDOH |
| Monitoring and Containment | • Colleges have implemented various screening/testing protocols and timelines<br>• Student Codes of Conduct to guard against outbreaks<br>• PPE and Social Distancing capacity<br>• Contact tracing<br>• Quarantine and Isolation plans<br>• Meal delivery services |
| Communication and Shutdown contingencies | • Colleges have developed contingency protocols to shift to remote delivery &/or campus shutdown<br>• COVID Dashboards include information on active cases, quarantine, isolation, student/faculty/staff cases |

# Recent Executive Order ~ Reporting COVID-19 Cases to NYSDOH

*Every higher education institution, including but not limited to community and junior colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, medical schools, and technical schools, shall report to the Department of Health, on a daily basis, in a form and manner to be determined by the Department, all COVID-19 testing and diagnoses among any on-campus students, teaching staff, and any other employees or volunteers. Such daily report shall include any other data elements as the Commissioner of Health determines to be appropriate to track outbreaks of COVID-19 within such higher education institutions, and provided further, that additional notification to the Department of Health is required once an institution reaches 100 positive cases.*

**CUNY**
- Vast majority of instruction is online
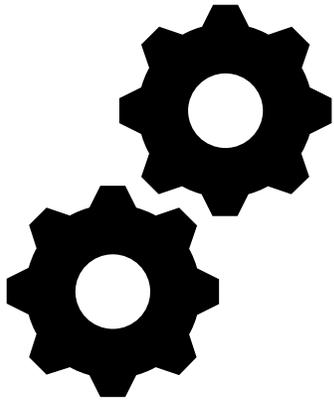- Some on-campus lab-based courses/activities

**SUNY**
- Majority offering hybrid of campus-based, face-to-face and online instruction
- SUNY has announced a systemwide COVID Dashboard which provides daily updates of positive cases across all 64 campuses

**Independent/Private**
- Majority offering hybrid of campus-based, face-to-face and online instruction
- Approximately 25 institutions are primarily online

## FOLLOW-UP TO DATE

## CHALLENGES AHEAD

- **Department will update guidance based upon feedback from the field and policy and regulatory flexibility updates**
- **Department is working with stakeholders on current issues related to:**
  - **Student teaching and clinical experience concerns for educator preparation programs**
  - **Clinical experience challenges for professional licensure programs**
  - **Financial and budget related challenges**
  - **Distance Learning flexibility**
  - **Digital divide and equity/access**
  - **Dual enrollment and Opportunity programs challenges**

# Thank you!