Governor Cuomo directed every school in New York State to close for the remainder of the school year.

All non-essential State employees not to report to work and to work from home as much as practicable.
The Board of Regents and NYSED have responded swiftly to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation:

- Opened lines of communication
- Developed many comprehensive guidance documents
- Developed systems to accept and review continuity of learning, child nutrition and child care plans
- While working remotely, NYSED staff are working tirelessly to maintain crucial services
COVID-19 RESPONSE: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- Child Nutrition Program
  - Federal waiver application to permit reimbursement at a higher rate
  - Emergency Meals-To-You Program for Rural Schools
  - P-ebt Collaboration with OTDA
  - Created new waiver application and claims process for closure meal programs

- Supporting Students and Families Disconnected from Schools Guidance
COVID-19 RESPONSE: CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

- Revised the Continuity of Learning Plan guidance
  - Required updated plans by May 4
- Updated NYSED Continuity of Learning Resource Website:
  - Educator Resources
  - District Planning
  - Staying Connected
COVID-19 RESPONSE: STATE ASSESSMENTS

- Suspended all State assessments, including Regents Exams
  - Cancelled June & August Regents and pathway examinations
  - Waived certain assessment requirements for graduation
  - USDE waiver received for 2020-21 assessments, accountability and reporting
- Multiple Webinars on Diploma Requirements and Assessment Exemptions
COVID-19 RESPONSE:
OFFICE OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND WORLD LANGUAGES

- Developing guidance on services to English Language Learners (ELLs) and world languages students
- Delivered 18 webinars for 1,250 world language teachers
- Created individual workgroups to support ELLs in collaboration with the RBERNs and the ELL Leadership Council
- Delivered professional development online through alignment of RBERNs
COVID-19 RESPONSE:
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (OSE)

OSE Continues to Develop and Identify Online Materials to Support Schools and Families

- Continuity of Learning for Students with Disabilities
- Schooling and Supporting their Children at Home
- Updated Question & Answer Guidance to the Field
- Virtual Learning Resources and Virtual Impartial Hearing Officer Training

Stakeholder Engagement

- Special Education Directors Meetings in each of the 37 BOCES Regions
- Special Education Leadership Discussions with the Big 4 City School Districts and the NYCDOE
- Conference Calls with Stakeholder Organizations
- OSE Regional Offices and Educational Partnership Centers Responding to Parents and Families
COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- Secured USDE waiver several fiscal provisions of ESSA and GEPA
- Distributed multiple guidance memos
- Created optional cohort meetings for schools participating in the Enhancing Principal Leadership and Instructional Coaching Consortium
- Created an online application to administer more than $1.2 billion in CARES Act funds available to districts
COVID-19 RESPONSE: HIGHER EDUCATION

Updated guidance related to flexibilities and solutions for Colleges and Universities

- Extended flexibility for online delivery of courses through Summer 2020
- Working with public and private sectors on solutions for Fall 2020
- Provided flexibility in meeting SOCE requirements
- Updated Guidance for Educator Preparation Programs and Teacher Certifications
- Flexibilities and extensions for grant & opportunity programs (MBK, PTECH, HEOP, etc.)
- Continuity of Engagement (MBK Village Meeting, Grant and Opportunity programs)
- Federal CARES ACT provides for funding for Colleges and students
COVID-19 RESPONSE: ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES

- Submitted a waiver request for provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Updated guidance and frequently asked questions for vocational rehabilitation providers
- Two webinars for 850 case managers and program directors
- Continued modernization of processes
- Reviewed and approved 121 licensed career schools to temporarily offer online instruction
COVID-19 RESPONSE:
OFFICE OF THE PROFESSIONS

- Daily updates to OP’s COVID-19 website to provide:
  - Guidance on Executive Orders issued by the Governor
  - 60+ COVID-19 FAQs for applicants & licensees
  - Expanded tele-practice guidance to better implement social distancing in professional services
- Guidelines established to grant Licensure Qualifying Programs needed flexibility
COVID-19 RESPONSE: OFFICE OF CULTURAL EDUCATION

- Established a COVID-19 Documentation Task Force to document the effects of the pandemic
- Offering access to virtual collections and online educational resources
- New York State Summer School of the Arts will offer virtual classes and online workshops
COVID-19 RESPONSE: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- Focus on Reopening SED Facilities including:
  - Guidance for staff returning to work
  - Disinfection protocol for facilities
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Social distancing best practices
  - Changes to business practices

- Non-essential staff volunteering in support of statewide coronavirus response operations
COVID-19 RESPONSE:  
SSBA & NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Approved $69 million in Smart Schools Bond Act applications
- Supported internet access for the Indigenous Nations
- NYSED worked with its three Regional Nonpublic Professional Resource Centers to provide professional learning for more than 1,000 nonpublic school teachers
- Issued information on extended deadline for parents to make transportation requests for 2020-21 until May 9
COVID-19 RESPONSE: EXECUTIVE, PIMS, CFO & COUNSEL'S OFFICE

**Finance**
- CARES Act ($30.7B): application for $1B ESSERF allocation submitted April 30
- Applying for two grant opportunities funded by the CARES Act to develop innovative K-12 and workforce preparation models
- Requested additional waivers for vocational rehabilitation and ESSA for potential inclusion in the U.S. Secretary of Education’s report to Congress
- Advocating for additional funding for education and all NYSED program areas

**Communications**
- Continuously disseminates information via dedicated website for external and internal audiences, listservs, news releases, social media, guidance memos, News & Notes and parent newsletter
- Launched social media campaigns:
  - #NYLearnsRemotely
  - #WhatImStayingHomeFor
  - #HeroesOfCovid19
  - #EducatorsAreHeroes

**Counsel’s Office**
- Assisted numerous program offices on additional guidance and proposed regulations
- Approved alternative service methods and extended deadlines for 310 appeals
QUESTIONS

NYS Education Department • @NYSEDNews • Apr 24
Thank you to all the licensed professionals, including nurses, physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, volunteers, & other healthcare providers who are the #HeroesOfCovid19. Share a picture of a licensed profession to help recognize their exceptional efforts!

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Stay home because you care about your friends. Who are you staying home for? #WhomYouStayHomeFor #Covid19 stayconnected stayhome

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NYS Education Department • @NYSEDNews • Apr 21
We thank the nurses, physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, & professionals, other healthcare providers, & volunteers who are part of the Covid19 response effort. Share a picture of a licensed profession you want to recognize during this time. #HeroesOfCovid19