


**COVID-19 Impact on Schools
Frequently Asked Questions
Originally Published 3.20.2020**

This document will be updated as information changes. New/updated information will be noted.




Number	Question	Answer
1	How are school districts to address food service while students are away from school buildings?	<p>Many districts are providing food service to students through pick-up or delivery. This chart provides information regarding the federal food service waiver. Feeding Options due to COVID -19 Closures</p> <p>See Indiana Approved Waiver Delivery to Homes (Confidential F/R)</p>
2	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block;">UPDATED</div> <p>Updated 4.3.2020 How will state mandated assessment administration be addressed while students are away from school buildings?</p>	<p>State mandated assessments for the 2019-2020 school year have been canceled. A notification to schools can be found here.</p> <p>Updated 3.24.2020 Governor Holcomb’s Executive Order 20-05 states, “All state-mandated assessments are cancelled for the 2019-2020 academic year.” This includes the assessments on the above mentioned link, along with the United States Naturalization Exam and dyslexia screening.</p> <p>Updated 4.3.2020 Information regarding summer assessments coming soon.</p>
3	How will state and federal accountability be determined for the 2019-2020 school year?	<p>State and Federal accountability calculations will be impacted by the cancellation of state mandated assessments. IDOE will work with Governor Holcomb’s Office to pursue any and all state and federal flexibility available. Please keep in mind that schools are currently held harmless from state accountability calculations for the 2019-2020 school year based on legislation from the recently concluded session.</p> <p>Updated 3.24.2020 Indiana’s request to waive federal assessment and accountability requirements has been approved by the US Department of Education. Indiana received a one year waiver from the requirement to administer mandated assessments, assign annual federal ratings, and identify new schools for support and improvement. Schools currently identified for Comprehensive or Targeted Support will remain identified through the 2020-2021 school year.</p>






<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UPDATED</p>	<p>Updated 4.2.2020 Are Indiana schools required to close?</p>	<p>Beginning on Friday, March 20, all Indiana public and nonpublic schools will be closed through May 1. School districts can choose to utilize eLearning continuously or intermittently during this mandatory closure. As a reminder, if eLearning is utilized in any format, schools must adhere to statutory timelines.</p> <p>Updated 4.2.2020 Pursuant to Governor Holcomb’s Executive Order 20-16, all K-12 schools in Indiana shall provide instruction via remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Schools shall not conduct in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year, and school buildings shall remain closed except for the purposes described in Executive Orders 20-04, 20-05, 20-08, and as may be described in any future Executive Orders. See Question 5 for additional details regarding reporting days of instruction.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UPDATED</p>	<p>Updated 4.3.20 What guidance is available for waiver days related to COVID-19 school closures?</p>	<p>Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 20-16, this memo details guidance for waiver days related to COVID-19 school closures. Please note the attached memo contains two additional links to information.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UPDATED</p>	<p>Updated 4.3.2020 to Reflect SY 2019-2020 Closure Does school being closed until May 1 mean a school will need to use waiver days during that time period.</p>	<p>Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 20-16, this memo details guidance for waiver days related to COVID-19 school closures. Please note the attached memo contains two additional links to information. See Question 5 for additional details regarding reporting days of instruction.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p>Updated 3.30.2020 Will tuition support be impacted if districts utilize any of the 20 day waiver?</p>	<p>Update As of March 25, 2020, IDOE has reached out to the State Budget Agency and has been assured there have been no known conversations about reducing FY20 tuition support payments to schools.</p> <p>The mandated closure period (Date of District Closure-May 1) prevents the imposition of any penalty or deduction of tuition support for school corporations.</p>
	<p>Updated 4.3.2020</p>	






<p>8</p> <p>UPDATED</p>	<p>Updated What happens if a school district exhausts all allotted waiver days?</p>	<p>Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 20-16, this memo details guidance for waiver days related to COVID-19 school closures. Please note the attached memo contains two additional links to information. See Question 5 for additional details regarding reporting days of instruction.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Updated 4.3.2020 with FEMA Information Should school districts be documenting COVID-19 related costs?</p>	<p>Yes. School districts should document all excess costs related to COVID-19 that are beyond normal operational expenses. The method for tracking these expenses is locally determined. The federal government, state of Indiana, or individual counties may request reimbursement for these expenses. School districts should be prepared to provide detailed documentation.</p> <p>Updated 4.3.2020 FEMA has now authorized entities to create their own profiles in the Grants Portal and complete a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) in that portal. RPAs must be submitted by April 12, 2020. Find more information here.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>UPDATED</p>	<p>Updated 4.6.2020 How are school districts addressing personnel costs while students are away from buildings?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many districts are passing local school board resolutions to address this issue. Please contact your local school corporation attorney or Indiana School Boards Association for guidance. • In addition, click here for guidance regarding federally funded positions. (LINK UPDATED 4.6.2020) • Each school district should seek guidance from its local corporation attorney and the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board (IEERB) regarding questions related to teacher contracts.
<p>11</p>	<p>What information is available for school districts utilizing eLearning?</p>	<p>The following guidance is available for school districts utilizing eLearning opportunities. IDOE eLearning Resources Page IDOE Remote Learning Resources IDOE eLearning Day Guidance for Students with Disabilities IDEA/Article 7 Timelines IDOE eLearning Requirements and Support for English Learners</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Is eLearning an all or nothing option?</p>	<p>No. School districts can utilize eLearning continuously or intermittently. In addition, eLearning can be utilized strategically to address the needs of students enrolled in credit-bearing courses and/or by selected grade spans.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Are IDOE staff available to provide assistance?</p>	<p>Yes. IDOE plans to continue providing uninterrupted service to school corporations. Inquiries regarding COVID-19 need to be sent to IDOECOVID-19@doe.in.gov.</p>






14	Will scheduled IDOE professional development opportunities still be offered?	All IDOE professional development opportunities scheduled March-April have been canceled. IDOE leadership will evaluate events scheduled beyond April and provide an update. IDOE is committed to rescheduling any canceled events. Please refer to Dr. McCormick's Weekly Update for information.
15	How should school districts handle issues associated with teacher contracts/service days ?	Each school district should seek guidance from its local corporation attorney and the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board (IEERB).
16	How should a school calculate the statutory and regulatory timelines that accompany suspension and/or expulsion decisions ?	There are statutory and regulatory timelines by which a school must afford certain due process protections to a student facing potential suspension and/or expulsion. See IC 20-33-8-19. Days that a corporation is closed and are not providing instruction do not count against these timelines. As an instructional day, however, an eLearning day would count against these timelines.
17	How will IDOE communicate updates surrounding COVID-19?	IDOE will provide updates via the following communication avenues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Webinar for School District Leadership every Tuesday at 10 a.m. ET. • IDOE COVID-19 webpage • Targeted Updates in Dr. McCormick's Weekly Update/SAMS and PAMS • Inquiries regarding COVID-19 need to be sent to IDOECOVID-19@doe.in.gov
18 	Updated 3.25.2020 Added 3.24.2020 During the mandatory closure, can districts/schools provide childcare?	Yes. Districts, schools, and third party providers may provide childcare within a school setting. IDOE recommends targeting children of first responders, medical professionals, military service members, and workers who provide access to essential goods and services. This memo outlines details. Schools providing child care should read this memo regarding liability insurance for child care facilities. It would be advisable for school corporations to speak with their individual insurance carriers, armed with the above memo, to ensure all parties are in agreement on insurance coverage.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title I funding may be utilized in Title I school-wide schools to purchase wifi hotspots for students who need access while school is closed. Work with your federal grant specialist to amend your grant if needed.

19	Added 3.24.2020 How can federal funding help with efforts to provide Internet access to all students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With so many in-person professional development opportunities being canceled, we encourage you to look at your Title II professional development budgets to see what funds will be remaining. For Title II, you have the option to transfer this funding to Title I or Title IV where it can be utilized for the purchase of wifi hotspots. Your federal grant specialist can provide more information regarding transferring your funds. • Wifi hotspots can be purchased with Title IV funds and can be budgeted under Focus Area A: Well Rounded Education as they will be used to access well-rounded academic content needed for eLearning. • Please work with your Title IV Grant Specialist Lacey Bohlen or Laura Blaydes to do an amendment for your FY 18 or FY 19 Title IV grant, if needed. • Rural schools may also use RLIS funding (under the Title I or Title IV categories) on WiFi hotspots for increased accessibility. Email Cole Dietrich to amend your FY 18 or FY 19 RLIS grant, if needed.
20	Added 3.26.2020 Are schools/school officials still under a duty to report child abuse/neglect ?	Yes. There is no change to the requirement that all individuals immediately report any abuse or neglect of a child. There is the potential that children may be particularly vulnerable during this period of school closure. School officials can find additional details on the duty to report abuse and neglect here .
21	Added 3.26.2020 Will IDOE extend the one-year deadline for expending common school fund technology loans ?	IDOE submitted a request asking the State Board of Education to approve an extension of the deadline to expend common school technology loans, approved in 2019, from one year to eighteen months.
22	Added 3.26.2020 Will IDOE extend the one-year deadline for expending at least fifty percent of common school construction loans ?	IDOE submitted a request asking the State Board of Education to approve an extension of the deadline to expend at least fifty percent of common school construction loans, approved in 2019, from one year to eighteen months.
22	Added 3.26.2020 Have new food	The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has released guidelines to support food safety in light of COVID-19. While the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, and ISDH are not aware of any

	safety guidelines been put in place in response to the COVID-19 outbreak?	cases of COVID-19 transmission through food or food packaging, guidance has been developed to assist food handlers. More information can be found here .
23	Added 3.27.2020 Do minors need to have a work permit on file with their employer during the mandatory school closure?	The Department of Labor has suspended the requirement for employers to have on file a work permit for minors they employ effective Monday, March 16. This will be in effect until May 1, 2020. Therefore, the Department of Labor and the Bureau of Child Labor inspectors will not hold employers responsible to have a work permit on file for minors employed between the dates of March 16 and May 1.
24 	Updated 4.1.2020 Added 3.27.2020 Will IDOE waive or extend deadline submissions for state reports .	Yes. The window for school corporations and charter schools to submit a September 2020 membership estimate has been extended to Friday, May 1. Please read the Extension of 2020 Membership Estimate memo for details. The April EE Collection has been canceled due to the testing waiver.
25 	Added 3.30.2020 What are the specific directions from ISDH as school administrators are notified of students, their family members, or staff with COVID-19?	Protocol for schools when a positive COVID-19 result is reported to a school can be found here .
26 	Added 4.1.2020 How are schools to understand their duties under FERPA in light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency?	An FAQ document that answers the most common questions schools are facing regarding how they must comply with FERPA protections in light of the COVID-19 emergency can be found here .

<p>27</p> 	<p>Added 4.2.2020 Will school bus inspection completions be extended beyond the annual September 28 deadline?</p>	<p>Currently, the school bus inspectors for the Indiana State Police are continuing inspections as they can using appropriate COVID-19 precautions (e.g. limited personnel in the inspection area, suggested social distancing, etc.), provided the local district will allow access. The intent is to complete all inspections before September 28. Due to expected delays, IDOE has submitted a request to Governor’s Holcomb’s office for an extension of the school bus inspection deadline through November 30. An update will be provided once a decision is made.</p>
<p>28</p> 	<p>Updated: 4.7.2020 Added 4.2.2020 What are the graduation requirements for the 2020 cohort?</p>	<p>Guidance pertaining to graduation requirements for the 2020 cohort can be found here.</p> <p>Also, please see this letter from the military as some seniors may be impacted.</p> <p>Updated: 4.7.2020 A document of frequently asked questions regarding graduation requirements can be found here.</p>
<p>29</p> 	<p>Added 4.3.2020 Where can I find details surrounding the new requirement to develop a Continuous Learning Plan?</p>	<p>By April 17, per the Governor’s Executive Order (20-16) school districts, charter schools, and eligible choice schools are required to create and submit a <i>Continuous Learning Plan</i>. Directions and a template can be found here.</p>
<p>30</p> 	<p>Added 4.3.2020 Will there be an extension for the SIG implementation funds from March 2019 that are through 9/30/20?</p>	<p>Yes. IDOE is extending the encumbrance deadline (by when the activities need to be completed) to 12/30/20. This only applies to the SIG implementation funding. As of now, the other federal grants still have a 9/30 encumbrance deadline. This also applies to planning grant funds. IDOE has requested an extension from USDOE and is awaiting approval.</p>
<p>31</p> 	<p>Added 4.3.2020 What impact does COVID-19 have on federal funds?</p>	<p>IDOE has requested from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) an extension to expend FY 20 federal funds. IDOE will notify LEAs once approved.</p> <p>Aligned to the CARES Act, IDOE has requested flexibility for districts to carry over more than the allotted 15 percent over Title I dollars, and will notify LEAs once it is approved.</p>

<p>32</p> 	<p>Added 4.3.2020 How should schools handle the procurement and bidding process during the COVID-19 situation?</p>	<p>Please read the attached memo regarding the school procurement and bidding process used by school corporations. The memo builds on recent communications released by the State Board of Accounts as a result of COVID-19.</p>
<p>33</p> 	<p>Added 4.6.2020 Can schools apply for common school loans to assist us with technology equipment needs?</p>	<p>Yes. The Office of School Finance will accept applications for construction and technology loans from school corporations and school corporation career and technical education schools from April 6 to April 24, 2020. Please read the Spring Common School Advancements Memo and review the Common School AV to ADM List for information. If you have any questions, please email us at CommonSchoolFund@doe.in.gov.</p>
<p>34</p> 	<p>Added 4.6.2020 What should districts and schools consider when determining how grades should be assigned during remote learning?</p>	<p>IDOE has prepared this guidance related to assigning grades during remote learning.</p>
<p>35</p> 	<p>Added 4.6.2020 Are schools required to continue conducting fire drills while school is not in session?</p>	<p>No. The Indiana State Fire Marshal has issued guidance saying all monthly drills are suspended until school is back in session. Semester drills, such as tornado and manmade drills are statutory requirements, and not under the authority of the Fire Marshal. Further guidance on these drills will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>36</p> 	<p>Added 4.6.2020 What is the status of teacher evaluations for the 2019-2020 school year?</p>	<p>IDOE is working with the Governor's Office and SBOE to provide flexibility. At this time nothing has been finalized.</p> <p>Please note: The cancelation of the EE data collection for 2019-2020 does not signal the cancelation of teacher evaluations for the 2019-2020 school year.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">37</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Added 4.6.2020 How should schools count and record attendance during remote learning?</p>	<p>If an LEA already has an approved board policy for remote learning or eLearning, the school should follow that policy. In the absence of such an existing policy, the local governing body has control to establish such a policy. Whatever policy they use, should be accurately depicted in the Continuous Learning Plan the district submits to IDOE.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">38</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Added 4.6.2020 Are school districts still required to conduct bus evacuation drills and seatbelt use instruction during the second semester of the 2019 – 2020 school year, as required under IC 20-27-3-6.5?</p>	<p>Seat belt use instruction and bus evacuation drills required for the second semester of the 2019 – 2020 school year have been waived per the governor’s Executive Order 20-16.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">40</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Added 4.7.2020 What guidance is available regarding the CARES Act?</p>	<p>IDOE has prepared this guidance related to the CARES Act.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">41</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Added 4.8.2020 Where can I find information specific to servicing students with special needs?</p>	<p>IDOE’s Office of Special Education (OSE) has produced this FAQ related to serving students with special needs. Additional information can be found on OSE’s webpage.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">42</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Added 4.9.2020 How is teacher licensing being affected by COVID-19?</p>	<p>Notices regarding the closing of Pearson testing centers and the challenges of issuing initial teacher licenses as well as renewing teacher licenses are available on the licensing home page.</p>

For additional information, please email IDOECOVID-19@doe.in.gov.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Working Together for Student Success