



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 – COVID-19 **Update ~ March 27, 2020**

Below are a list of FAQ Responses Based on the Common Questions we have Received

Q: What are the consequences for districts/schools that don't meet the 180-day requirements?

A: PDE will not penalize school districts that fail to meet the minimum 180-day requirements as a result of COVID-19 response efforts.

Q: Recognizing that schools will not be penalized for failing to meet the minimum 180-day requirement because of COVID-19 response efforts, must schools adjust their calendars to meet those requirements?

A: Given the extensive period of closure, schools are not required to adjust calendars. However, schools will be required to report their total days and hours for the 2019-20 school year.

Q. What's the status of the 2019-20 statewide assessments given the statewide closure of schools?

A: On March 19, the Secretary of Education cancelled all Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing and Keystone exams for the 2019-20 school year as a result of COVID-19. This cancellation includes the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA). On March 20, the USDE approved Pennsylvania's request to waive all Federal assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements for the 2019-20 school year. In addition, On March 23, the Secretary also cancelled standardized testing for students in career and technical education (CTE) programs for the 2019-20 school year. These include exams from the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) and National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) test.

Q: Are schools required to provide instruction during the closure of schools due to COVID-19 response efforts?

A: PDE strongly encourages all schools to provide some type of continuity of education for all students in the most appropriate and accessible ways possible, while also honoring the Governor's guidance for aggressive social distancing of at least six feet between individuals. Continuity of education is the broad term given to educational practices that occur in the event of a prolonged school closure. To provide a consistent and equitable foundation for this work, PDE partnered with Intermediate Units (IUs) and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PATTAN) to develop guidance and evidence-based resources around continuity of education, and to provide technical assistance to Fannett-Metal School District.

Q: For school entities considering Continuity of Education, what options are available?

Schools may provide continuity of education through either Planned Instruction or Enrichment and Review. The Fannett-Metal School District is choosing to use the Enrichment and Review method for our Continuity of Education. New standards and skills are not addressed through Enrichment and Review. Rather, Enrichment and Review consists of informal activities that reinforce or extend students' prior learning. We will be using teacher webpages on the district website and our Learning Management System (LMS) called Schoology. In addition, non-digital learning opportunities (e.g., materials sent home to students) will be used during the school closure.

Resources and Information:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>