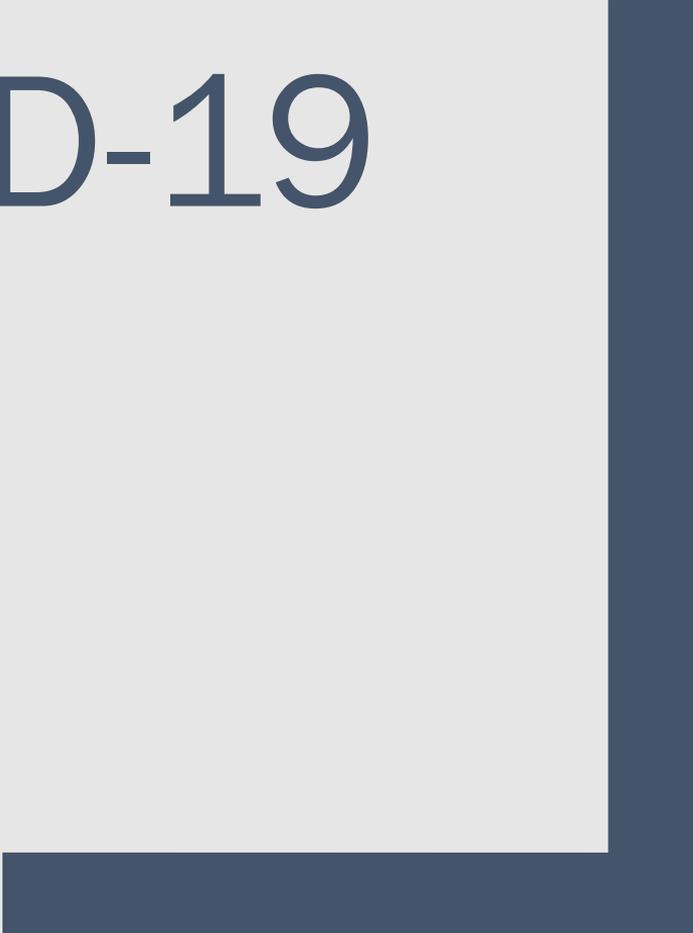




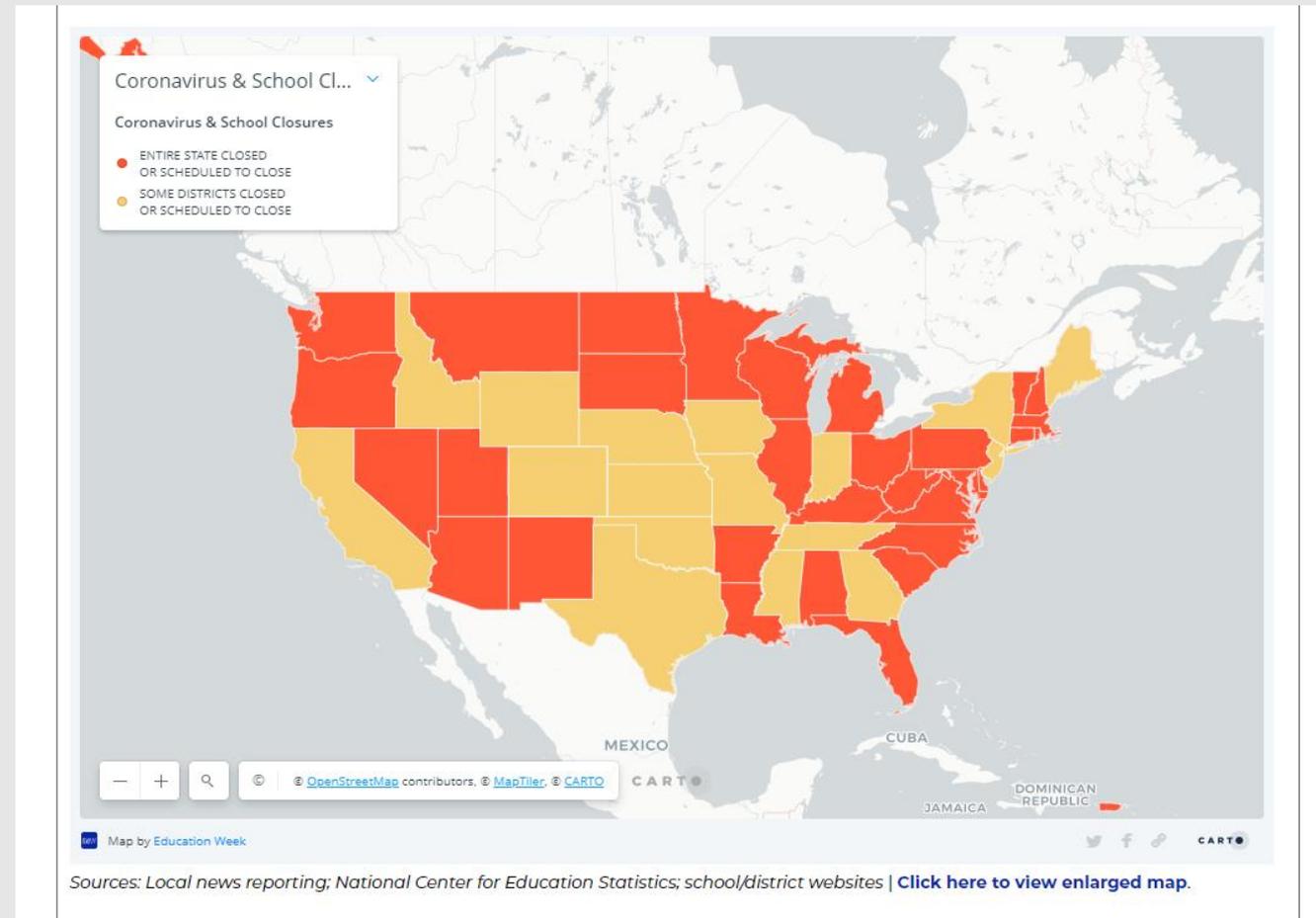
AASA ASE COVID-19 UPDATE

March 16, 2020
Dan Domenech
Noelle Ellerson Ng



COVID-19 and Closures

As of March 15, 2020, 9:29 p.m. ET: 33 states have decided to close public schools. Combined with district closures in other states, at least 64,000 U.S. schools are closed, are scheduled to close, or were closed and later reopened, affecting at least 32.5 million public school students. There are 98,277 public schools in the U.S. and almost 50.8 million public school students, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.



Quick Reference Resources

- AASA Corona Resources [here](#)
- Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Cases Map [here](#)
- CDC COVID-19 landing page [here](#)
 - *CDC Schools landing page* [here](#)
 - *CDC Guidance for Administrators* [here](#)
 - *CDC FAQ for Administrators* [here](#)

AASA COVID-19 Response

- AASA COVID-19 Resources
- Conference calls/webinars with CDC and FCC
- Direct work with Capitol Hill on emergency legislation
- Nationwide survey to measure impact and response
- Evaluating and cancelling March/April meetings
 - *Including State Leadership Conference in New Orleans*
- Shifting staff to work from home/social distancing

USED Resources

- USED COVID-19 landing page [here](#)
 - *Protecting Student Privacy: FERPA FAQ* [here](#)
 - Outlines how schools can honor their obligations to student privacy while communicating with the public about COVID-19 or while sharing information with health agencies that are working to track its spread.
 - *Q&A on serving Students with Disabilities during COVID* [here](#)
 - Reminds schools that, if they "continue to provide educational opportunities to the general student population during a school closure" through activities like distance learning and online programs, they they must ensure that students with disabilities also have equal access to the same opportunities.
 - *Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Impact on Accountability & Assessments* [here](#)
 - In addition to the possibility of waiving testing requirements, the Education Department may consider a targeted waiver for schools that don't meet the minimum student participation rate of 95 percent in state tests, the guidance says.
 - And the department will also consider targeted waivers for schools that see high rates of chronic absenteeism related to the coronavirus. Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia include chronic absenteeism as a school quality indicator in their ESSA plans.

USDA Waivers Granted

- Waiver provides for schools to serve food in non-congregate (ie, other than cafeteria) settings
- Waiver roster as of Saturday morning

FNS Actions to Respond to COVID-19

Child Nutrition Programs

Congregate Meal Waivers

The following states have received waiver approvals enabling sponsors to serve meals in a non-congregate setting and at school sites during school closures related to the coronavirus:

Alaska	Kansas	New Hampshire	South Carolina
California	Kentucky	North Carolina	South Dakota
Colorado	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Tennessee
Connecticut	Maryland	New Jersey	Texas
Delaware	Maine	New York	Utah
District of Columbia	Michigan	Ohio	Virginia
Georgia	Mississippi	Oregon	Washington
Illinois	Montana	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Indiana	Nebraska	Rhode Island	Wyoming

FCC and Internet Access

- Hosting call with FCC Commissioner Rosenworcel on Wednesday
- Building pressure to get support from Capitol Hill to allow some ERate flexibility
- *Allow FCC to use its emergency powers to temporarily waive relevant E-rate program rules and allow its beneficiaries to utilize universal service funding to provide home wireless service to existing school devices and hotspots for students who lack internet access at home.*

Federal Legislation

- First Supplemental: Emergency package of \$8.3 b
 - *3x request from White House*
 - *Includes \$2.2b to help fed/state/local health agencies prep for/respond to COVID-19*
- Second Supplemental: Being considered this week
 - *House bill (see next slide)*
 - *Senator Murray (D-WA) introduced the Supporting Students in Response to Coronavirus Act (S.3489), a bill that would provide emergency grants to early care and education programs, schools, and higher education institutions to help with response to the public health crisis.*
- Third package?!
 - *Likely to be a third iteration, this is where we transition from emergent response to supporting long-term response and recovery*

Federal Legislation

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201)

- *Nutrition:*

- **\$500 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** to provide nutrition assistance for children and their mothers who have lost their jobs as a result of the outbreak.
- **\$400 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program** to help local food banks meet increased need for low-income Americans.
- **\$100 million for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.**
- A provision that allows the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans to provide **emergency Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) food assistance to households with children who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price school meals in the event that their school is closed** (The MEAL Act).
- Gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to approve state waivers addressing nutrition assistance with school closures even if it increases cost to the federal government.
- Provisions to allow child and adult care centers to serve food to go, allow the Secretary of Agriculture to waive meal pattern requirements in child nutrition programs if there is a disruption in food supply, and allow the Secretary of Agriculture to issue nationwide school meal waivers during the emergency.
- Allows participants to be certified for WIC without being physically present at a WIC clinic.
- **Suspends work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the emergency.**
- Allows states to request waivers for emergency CR-SNAP benefits to existing SNAP households up to the maximum monthly allotment.

- *Health:*

- **Provides free COVID-19 testing to all Americans, regardless of insurance.**
- Medicaid and CHIP, which cover over 45 million children between the two programs, will cover diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider visit to receive testing, with no cost to the patient.
- **Increases states' federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for public health programs like Medicaid and CHIP for the duration of the emergency.**
- Increases Medicaid allotments for U.S. Territories.
- The bill ensures that American Indians and Alaskan Natives do not experience cost sharing for COVID-19 testing.

- *Paid Sick Leave, Unemployment Insurance, and Family and Medical Leave:*

- **Provides employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to two weeks of fully-paid leave when they are sick, or two weeks of paid leave at 2/3 of their normal rate to care for a family member.**
- Provides employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to take up to 12-weeks of job-protected leave.
- Provides \$1 billion in 2020 emergency grants to states to meet the increased need for **Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.**
- Provides several tax breaks for employers who give their employees mandatory paid leave during the emergency.

Policy Issues to Monitor

- Who gets paid and how? (ie, hourly workers?)
- School calendar flexibility
- State assessment flexibility
- Federal accountability flexibility
- School lunch/meals flexibility
- Full reimbursement for school meals
- Teacher shortages/sub shortages once re open

Asks & Considerations

- Child care provision for essential employees (medical professionals, first responders)
- Demos for virtual delivery/distance learning

Contact Info

Dan Domenech

ddomenech@aasa.org

Noelle Ellerson Ng

nellerson@aasa.org

703-774-6935