



Statewide School Closure Guidance Webinar

March 17

www.isbe.net/covid19

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community



Act of God Days

- All of the days during this initial mandated statewide closure March 17-30 will count as Act of God Days for **all** districts.
- There is a very real possibility of the closure extending beyond March 30.
- Future decisions regarding the statewide school closure will be made in consultation with public health officials.
- Internships and extracurriculars are canceled. The purpose of the closure is for students to stay home.

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Continuity of Education

- School districts have full autonomy to provide continuous learning opportunities **through whatever means possible**, including through technology and free online resources.
- We encourage every school and district to explore and implement what works best for the school community.
- ISBE has compiled a library of online resources at www.isbe.net/KeepLearning. Share yours with #KeepLearning!

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E-learning

- ISBE still encourages all districts to develop e-learning plans. E-learning may be necessary if the closure extends beyond March 30.
- Let us know specifically what technology you need for e-learning through the survey at www.isbe.net/covid19.
- Executive Order 2020-05 provides flexibility in e-learning plan approval: removes limit on number of days, requires only ROE/ISC verification of plan to implement, and relaxes 300-minute instructional time requirement.

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Grades

- Student work completed during the mandated statewide school closure **must not negatively impact** a student's grades or otherwise impact a student's academic standing.
- As we do not yet know the full extent of the closure and want to minimize any negative effects on students, schools may allow student work to count during the closure **ONLY** to **increase** a student's academic standing.

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Special Education and English Learners

- ISBE is currently reviewing questions regarding special education and will provide detailed guidance as soon as possible.
- ISBE want to ensure that guidance is legally sound and in line with the U.S. Department of Education.
- Resources to help you engage students with disabilities and English Learners in educational opportunities during the closure are available at www.isbe.net/KeepLearning.

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State Assessments

- The U.S. Department of Education has communicated that it will make waivers available for assessments and accountability. ISBE will work in partnership with stakeholders to determine next steps for Illinois, once the full extent of the closure is known.
- **This closure will not impact school year 2019-20 summative designations.**
- ISBE is in communication with the College Board about Advanced Placement Exams.

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Nutrition

- ISBE has received a waiver from the USDA to permit districts to serve food in non-congregate settings.
- Please complete the one-page [Unanticipated School Closure Non-Congregate Meal form](#), and submit to ISBE at cnp@isbe.net.
- **All children** age 18 or younger or enrolled in school may receive a free meal during the school closure.
- All meals served to children are reimbursable.

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Employment and Labor Issues

- ISBE released joint guidance with the Governor's Office, IEA, IFT, IASA, and IPA to clarify rights and expectations of district employees during the closure.
- All employees on a district's payroll **must be paid** as if schools were functioning normally.
- The employer can expect employees to participate in work activities in some form.
- Details of the work must be decided through mutual agreement.
- Public health and safety of students and staff are paramount, and to the extent work can be done remotely, it should be.

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Open Meetings Act

- [Executive Order 2020-07](#) provides flexibility to Open Meetings Act.
- Requirement that members of a public body must be physically present is suspended.
- Limits on remote participation are suspended.
- Public bodies are encouraged to postpone consideration of public business where possible.
- When a meeting is necessary, public bodies should provide the public with video, audio, and/or telephone access.
- Public bodies should update their websites and social media feeds to keep the public fully apprised of changes.

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Keeping Administrators On-Site

- ISBE asks that at least one administrator stay on-site during the regular hours of the school day.
- The purpose of an administrator remaining in the building is to ensure the safety of any students who happen to come to school and to ensure that an individual with executive decision-making capacity is available on site.
- Schools are not expected or equipped to provide childcare during the school closure.
- Please exercise social distancing in all situations and follow CDC and IDPH guidelines.

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Questions?

Enter questions in your textbox on the Go To webinar application.

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