

 <p><b>Children's Services Agency</b></p> <p><b>Communication Issuance</b></p> <p><b>20-068</b>  <b>Revised on 5/28/20. Prior version obsolete.</b></p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response: Guidance for Education Requirements Updated
	Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational Memorandum <input type="checkbox"/> Program Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Guide
	Issuance Date	05/01/20
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Due to	N/A	
Distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS BSC and County Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Workforce Development and Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

**This version replaces prior versions of CI 20-068.**

On April 3, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2020-35](#), ordering all in-person instruction for pupils in kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) be suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and that school buildings used for the provision of K-12 education remain closed for the purpose of providing education in person.

### Continuity of Learning Plans

Every local education agency (LEA) is required to develop a Continuity of Learning Plan to be turned in to their Intermediate School District (ISD) between April 8, 2020 and April 28, 2020.

- Continuity of Learning Plans will outline how the district will maintain student relationships and learning using distance learning that may include use of online learning, telephone communications, email, virtual instruction, videos, slideshows, project-based learning, use of instructional packets, or a combination to meet diverse student and family needs.
- Each Continuity of Learning Plan must document assurances that, to the extent practicable, districts will in good faith provide students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP)/Section 504 Plans, the opportunity to participate in learning consistent with existing plans.
- Once approved by the ISD, the plan will be posted to the district public website.

### Initial Placement & Replacement

Children who experience a placement/replacement between now and the end of the current academic school year should remain enrolled in the school they were attending *prior* to the move.

- A DHS-942, School Notification and Records Release, should be sent to the school district foster care liaison.
- An education best interest determination should be completed prior to the start of the 2020-2021 academic school year to determine where the child/youth should be enrolled.

### **Reassessment of Determination of Care (DOC)**

With distance learning occurring at home, foster parents/relative caregivers may be required to put forth additional time and effort to assist children/youth with completing schoolwork assignments, providing support with technology, and keeping in touch with teaching staff.

- Current DOC levels should be reassessed if requested by a foster parent/relative caregiver.
- Assessment of the caregiver's activities should include viewing the school district's Continuity of Learning Plan once posted to their local district website, and determining the expectations, as well as what the foster parent/relative caregiver report they are providing. Assessment should include the age of the child, their grade level work and the degree the child can complete education work independently.
- Any new DOC rate should be made effective on the date the school district implemented distance learning and the caregiver reports starting any new activities.

### **School District Foster Care Liaisons**

- School district foster care liaisons are working remotely and can best be contacted by email. To find a school district foster care liaison, go to the Education Entity Mater (EEM) at <https://cepi.state.mi.us/eem/>. Complete a Quick Search by Local Education Agency (LEA).

### **Free/Reduced Lunch**

- Youth who are placed in foster care under the supervision of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are categorically eligible for free and reduced lunch. School districts are required to provide free lunches for eligible students while in-person education is suspended. Families should be notified by the school district regarding the distribution of food, or they can contact the school.
  - In addition, all Michigan students who receive free and reduced lunch who are age 5 to 18 will now be eligible to receive the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT) to provide temporary funding for additional food assistance.
  - For families who already receive food assistance, the additional funding will be added to their current EBT Bridge cards.
  - For families who are not already receiving food assistance, a letter will be mailed during the week of April 13 and an EBT Bridge Card mailed by the first week of May.
  - A child will only receive this benefit if they were enrolled for this benefit prior to school closures; it is not based solely on their eligibility.

### **Testing/Exams (ACT, SAT, Advanced Placements)**

- Current high school juniors who are scheduled to take the ACT/SAT test this spring will be rescheduled to take it in fall 2020. Plans have not been finalized for those seniors who were taking/re-taking those tests.
- Students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses will take required exams online during the month of May. Specific information regarding these exams will come from the attending school.

### **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act/Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education**

- The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education has released *Guidance for Compliance With the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic* and it can be found at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE-OSE\\_GuidanceIDEA-MARSE\\_Covid-19\\_685879\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE-OSE_GuidanceIDEA-MARSE_Covid-19_685879_7.pdf).