Connecticut State Department of Education
COVID-19 Guidance Related to School Closure and 180 Days
March 9, 2020 – This Guidance may be updated in conjunction with CDC and DPH recommendations, and rapidly changing circumstances.

Superintendent/local determines closure appropriate in consultation with and at the recommendation of the local health officials. State DPH and SDE will be prepared to support decision making.

Short Term Closure
Up to 2 weeks

No Distance Learning in Lieu of Onsite Schooling
Close school outright if necessary. This avoids inequities, staff contractual issues, special education access, etc.

SDE Recommended

Distance Learning
Distance learning effectively employed, accessible, LEA accepts risk, considers staff contractual issues, special education access, etc.

LEA Determines Locally

School year extended as needed through vacations and/or June 30
= No waiver necessary if meets 180 days, or submit waiver if less than 180 days
May provide supplemental programming.

Case-by-Case Guidance
Use superintendents’ only email.

Longer Term Closure and/or State and Federal Orders

LEA certifies compliance with state and federal law through distance learning, assumption of risk, given unique circumstances of COVID-19
= SDE recommends waiver
COVID-19 waiver template must be submitted.*

*Consideration of distance learning related to a waiver of onsite school days is limited to the present circumstances of the current COVID-19 concerns for the 2019-2020 school year.