



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COVID-19

**Review of Governor Lamont's
Executive Orders Related to Education**

April 3, 2020

Attendee Reminders

- Thank you for attending!
- All attendees will be placed on mute for the duration of the webinar.
- To ask questions, please use the Q and A or chat feature
- Questions will be addressed by the presenters at the conclusion of the session
- This session is being recorded and will be posted to the CSDE web site.



Our Presenter

Jessa Mirtle, CSDE Legal Director



Attorney Jessa Mirtle is charged with leading a team providing legal counsel to the State Board of Education, CSDE, the Commissioner of Education, and CTECS, on a wide range of issues pertaining to education. She and her team are engaged in daily conversations with multiple stakeholders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the school communities.

Prior to joining the CSDE, Attorney Mirtle has been a long-time public servant, most recently as an employment attorney and labor relations associate with UConn, and previously as an attorney for the Corporation Counsel's Office in the City of Waterbury. Her education comes from Trinity College in Hartford and UConn Law School. Attorney Mirtle also holds a certificate in Labor Relations/ Contract Administration from Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations.



Emergency Declarations

After his March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, the Governor has issued a series of Executive Orders as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States.



Executive Order 7

- March 12, 2020
- Initial order limiting gatherings (250 people) and beginning to address public health and safety concerns

Executive Order 7A

- March 13, 2020
- Authorized the Commissioner of Public Health to restrict entrance into nursing homes and similar facilities to protect vulnerable populations

Executive Order 7B

- March 14, 2020
- Modified public meetings requirements
- Began addressing shortage of hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Allowed for more flexibility to increase the availability of childcare

Executive Order 7C

- March 15, 2020
- Cancelled classes in public schools for at least two weeks
- Authorized Commissioner of Education to exercise flexibility under certain statutes to address class cancellation impact
- Extended deadlines for municipal and regional board of education budget preparations

Executive Order 7D

- March 16, 2020
- Restricted social and recreational gatherings of all types to fewer than 50 people
- Closed many recreational facilities and limited restaurants to take-out

Executive Order 7E

- March 17, 2020
- Addressed evolving circumstances suggesting a longer term school class cancelation by clarifying the waiver of the requirement for 180 day school year, allowing all districts to close on their normally scheduled end-date, so long as they provide continued educational opportunities to the greatest extent possible

Executive Order 7F

- March 18, 2020
- Ordered the closure of shopping malls, places of public amusement except public parks and open recreation areas
- Expanded Medicaid telehealth coverage,
- Clarified the order cancelling school classes related to USD1 and USD2

Executive Order 7G

- March 19, 2020
- Postponed the presidential primary
- Suspended court operations
- Expanded the availability of telehealth services

Executive Order 7H

- March 20, 2020
- “Stay Safe, Stay Home” initiative - Limited the workplace operations of non-essential businesses, and non-profits
- Not directly applicable to boards of education

Executive Order 71

- March 21, 2020
- Authorized Commissioner of Education to allow flexibility related to the Student Data Privacy Act
- Allowed restrictions on DCF visitation
- Provided some procedural relief for municipalities and regional boards of education

Executive Order 71 (con'd)

- Temporary flexibilities for data privacy:
- <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2019-20/March-23-2020-Cmmr-Memo-Data-Privacy-Flexibilities-EO7i.pdf?la=en>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Performance/Data-Privacy-and-Security>

Executive Order 7J

- March 22, 2020
- Expanded the availability of temporary retired workers to fill critical staffing needs
- Clarified restrictions on the operations of non-essential businesses

Executive Order 7K

- March 23, 2020
- Suspended additional court and administrative proceedings
- Authorized remote notarization

Executive Order 7L

- March 24, 2020
- Extended the cancellation of public school classes through April 20, 2020, unless further extended

Executive Order 7M

- March 25, 2020
- Authorized commissioners of state agencies to suspend or modify administrative deadlines

Executive Order 7N

- March 26, 2020
- Further limited social and recreational gatherings to 5 people
- Suspended school testing assessments for 2019-20 school year
- Further restricted restaurant and retail operations
- Suspended 21-month limit on Temporary Family Assistance

Executive Order 70

- March 27, 2020
- Waived of Birth-to-Three family cost participation fees

Executive Order 7P

- March 28, 2020
- Authorized provision of non-congregant housing for persons at risk

Executive Order 7Q

- March 30, 2020
- Limited group sizes in childcare
- Increased health procedures for all operating childcare programs

Executive Order 7R

- March 31, 2020
- Addressed funding for boards of education; continuation of payment of public school staff
- Required preservation of student transportation services and special education providers

Executive Order 7S

- April 1, 2020
- Allowing grace period for premium payments, policy cancellations, and non-renewals of insurance policies
- Provided relief from certain municipal tax deadlines and collection efforts

Question and Answer

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