



201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203-1799

March 9, 2020

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

I hope you are all doing well. As you can tell from the media reports, the situation on COVID-19 is evolving every day. We've attempted to keep you updated on some of these initial milestones, but we thought moving forward it would be faster and easier for everyone if we provided you with resources so you can stay up to date. You can get the latest updates from [Gov. Jared Polis' news releases](#), or from [CDPHE's Daily Fast Facts](#). If the situation changes substantially, or we have new information for you to act on, we will update you directly. We do have one request of you at the end of this email.

We know that you are getting lots of questions from your educators, staff, students and families, and we want to provide you with information that can help you address their concerns.

- We recently worked with CDPHE to develop [this new guidance for schools and childcare facilities](#). It is specific to COVID-19, and I think it will be a helpful resource as you work to keep your students, educators and communities healthy.
- We are also working with USDA to allow for additional flexibilities within [emergency feeding](#) options, such as waiving the requirement that meals are served in group settings. We will keep you posted on these flexibilities.
- We've also developed a [short Q&A](#) to answer the questions we are getting from you. We will continue to add to this with answers to the questions we receive from you. Current topics include:
  - flexibilities on instruction time requirements,
  - use of e-learning and remote learning,
  - continued operation of school food programs,
  - flexibilities on grant reimbursements,
  - ESEA flexibilities on Maintenance of Effort,
  - CDE connections to school nurses,
  - connecting with public health agencies, and

We have a collection of fact sheets and guidance on our [website, including resources for talking with children about COVID-19](#).

You all should be working directly with your local public health agencies for planning and any needed responses for COVID-19. To help us ensure that we are providing an accurate picture of any school closures to the state Emergency Operations Center, we've created [this form to gather any potential school closures](#). If you could add this into your process for communicating about a potential school closure, we would greatly appreciate it.



I know it is already a very busy time of the year for you, and planning for COVID-19 has added another element of stress to your work. Thank you for your amazing leadership and everything you are doing. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions, concerns or other ways we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Anthes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

