THE ABC's OF COVID -19
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The NYSED requires that each school district must have a plan to provide instruction whether in-person, remotely or using a hybrid model.

HEALTH and SAFETY

To ensure the safety of its students and staff each school district is required to:

- Perform health checks and screenings, including daily temperature checks for students and staff.
- Develop plans to isolate sick students until they can be picked up.
- Maintain proper ventilation in school buildings.
- Ensure social distancing of at least six feet.
- Require all students (with limited exceptions), staff and visitors to wear protective face coverings upon entering the building.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

- Schools must provide 180 days of instruction.
- Schools must collect and report attendance, whether the student is attending in person or remotely.

COMMUNICATION

- Let the school know your contact information.
- Let the school know of any school or other significant issues your child may be experiencing.
- Ask teachers how they prefer to be contacted.
- Keep records of school communication.

ACCESS TO LEARNING

- During COVID, schools can teach students remotely using various teaching methods and technologies.
- Districts should provide access to a device and the internet to enable students to fully participate in remote/online learning.

MEALS

Public schools are required to provide all eligible students with scheduled meals each day, regardless of whether the student is learning in school or at home.

Student Advocacy, Inc.
www.studentadvocacy.net
914-347-7039 x100

Updated as of 11/16/2020
A student may be granted the CDOS credential and fulfill the CDOS+1 Pathway if the student did not meet all the requirements during the 2019-2020 school year, if it is determined that the student otherwise demonstrated the required knowledge and skills.

School districts must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in the student’s individualized education program (IEP).

School districts must identify and evaluate students suspected of having a disability that impacts their ability to access the general education curriculum.

You may also refer your child for a Section 504 plan if you think your child needs accommodations but not special education services.

SUSPENSIONS DURING COVID

Whether attending remotely or in person, all students are required to follow the school districts code of conduct.
If your child is suspended seek legal advice.
Do not attend a superintendent’s hearing without a lawyer.

PRIVACY

Schools must take measures to protect students' personal information when using digital learning platforms.

Schools must keep the names of students, families and staff who test positive for COVID strictly confidential.

TRANSPORTATION

- Buses must be regularly disinfected.
- Bus staff and students must wear protective face coverings and maintain social distancing on the bus.
- All students eligible for transportation prior to COVID are still eligible.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DURING COVID

A student with a disability is entitled to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE):

- School districts must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in the student's individualized education program (IEP).
- School districts must identify and evaluate students suspected of having a disability that impacts their ability to access the general education curriculum.
- You may also refer your child for a Section 504 plan if you think your child needs accommodations but not special education services.

Classified child still struggling?

- Ask for a Committee on Special Education (CSE) meeting in writing to review your child's program.
- The CSE may conduct meetings remotely.
- The CSE must ensure that parents participate meaningfully.

Don't forget!!

- All students with IEPs should be evaluated at least every three years.
- Districts must ensure that all students, including students with disabilities, have equal access to school instruction and materials.

GRADUATION

If a student turned 21 during the 2019-2020 school year but did not graduate with a diploma or credential, districts are strongly encouraged to allow the student to complete the 2020-2021 school year so that the student can earn a diploma or credential.

REGENTS EXAMS

January 2021 Regents have been cancelled. A student will be exempt from needing these exams to graduate with a diploma if they meet one of the following:

- Student is currently enrolled in and earns credit for Regents class ending at the end of first semester 2020-2021.
- Student successfully completes make-up program for course credit between 9/1/2020 and end of first semester 2020-2021.
- Student is preparing to take a required Regents exam to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

If a student was enrolled in a Regents class during the 2019-20 school year, or was planning on taking a Regents exam not passed in a previous year, the student can earn Regents credit as long as the student earned course credit in that subject.

CDOS Credential and +1 Pathway

A student may be granted the CDOS credential and fulfill the CDOS+1 Pathway if the student did not meet all the requirements during the 2019-2020 school year, if it is determined that the student otherwise demonstrated the required knowledge and skills.