



COVID-19 Continuous Learning and Return-to-Learn Guidance

Continuous Learning for 2019-2020

Governor Reynolds will waive the instructional time requirements for the remainder of the 2019-2020 regularly scheduled academic year for districts and accredited nonpublic schools that offer continuous learning in accordance with [prior Department guidance](#) and the following additional parameters:

- Districts and schools should implement voluntary and/or required continuous learning plans through the end of the regular calendar year. If you wish to change your plan you may do so at any time through the [Consolidated Accountability and Support Application \(CASA\)](#).
- Schools will be required to submit a Return-to-Learn Plan to the Department of Education by July 1, 2020, in accordance with recommendations from the Continuous Learning Taskforce.
 - Detailed guidance and a template for submission of the plans in CASA will be provided in the next one to two weeks.
 - Return to Learn provisions may include options for summer school, enrichment activities, or other opportunities designed to address the needs of learners as a result of COVID-19 disruptions to learning.
- Governor Reynolds will waive the school start date in Iowa Code for the 2020-2021 school year so school districts may determine locally their academic year.
- Spring sports are cancelled, and a decision will be made on summer sports by June 1.

Return-to-Learn Plans

Return-to-Learn Plans are required to be submitted in the CASA system no later than July 1, 2020. Detailed guidance on the content of the plans will be issued in the coming weeks. Important information for districts and schools to have right now about these plans includes:

- Plans will be designed to help schools consider what they need to support students and staff. This is not a compliance activity, but a planning activity.
- Plan submission will be made as efficient as possible.
- Plans will focus on consideration of students' academic and social-emotional-behavioral learning and mental health needs.
- Plans will include supports for students with disabilities, students who are English learners, students at-risk, and students living in poverty.
- Plans will also include considerations for school staff safety and wellness.