

# **In-Depth Coronavirus Guidance for School District Administrators**

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## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- Governor's Executive Order (1460)
- House Bill 1647 (sent to Governor)
- Mississippi Department of Education

## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- Governor's Executive Order (1460)
  - Closed until April 17, 2020
  - ADA funds will be paid (suspending ten-day limit)
  - Addresses testing requirements

## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- Governor's Executive Order (1460)
  - Addresses continuing operations:
    - “Each school district shall continue to operate with essential faculty and staff, whether working from home or in the workplace following the guidance of the Mississippi Department of Health including appropriate social distancing and hygiene, who are necessary to carry out essential functions including all federally required programming and the development and implementation of distance learning or other instructional means necessary for students to achieve completion of essential grade-level instruction for the 2019-2020 school year and, where feasible, to maintain sufficient staffing for preparation and transportation in order to continue to provide free and reduced meals to eligible students in their respective districts.”

## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- Governor's Executive Order (1460)
  - Practical issues:
    - essential faculty and staff
    - distance learning or other instructional means
    - completion of essential grade-level instruction
    - food service and transportation

## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- Governor's Executive Order (1460)
  - Gives reasons for “administrative leave with pay:”
    - If “closed”
    - If employee's duties are “non-essential”
    - If employee or a member of employee's immediate household is in quarantine or isolation as result of COVID-19
    - Other reasons as determined by the governing authority in consultation with a health care professional necessary to prevent risk of transmission of COVID-19

## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- House Bill 1647 (sent to Governor)
  - If signed, will provide that “any public school district **may grant** administrative leave with pay” during emergency
  - Any employee on previously approved leave shall be eligible for such administrative leave
  - Possible questions: substitutes; part-time employees; employees of vendors

## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- Mississippi Department of Education
  - Action of the State Board of Education (March 19, 2020)
    - Suspended all state and federal assessments
    - DOE to pursue federal waivers for suspensions of assessments and accountability
    - Districts will retain accountability results for another year



## State Legislative and Regulatory Update

- Mississippi Department of Education
  - SPED Guidance
    - If providing educational services to regular education students, you must provide education to students with disabilities.
      - Instruction must be individualized for SPED students
      - IEPs meetings must be conducted
        - » Flexibility exists
        - » Unlikely to provide full range of services

## Federal Legislation

- Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act
  - Amended to provide paid leave for COVID-19 related absences
- Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act
  - Grants up to two weeks of sick leave for COVID-19 absences
  - Practical impact in light of paid administrative leave in Mississippi.

Thank you!



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