

March 15, 2020

Policy EBCF – Pandemic-Epidemic Emergencies – Temporary Regulation to address COVID-19

Requested School Board Motion for the Goffstown and New Boston School Boards:

To approve the Superintendent’s Emergency Operations Plan for COVID-19 as a temporary Regulation to Policy EBCF – Pandemic-Epidemic Emergencies and to grant the Superintendent or his designee authorization to respond at his discretion to changing public health circumstances and to allow the Superintendent the ability to modify or adapt School Board Policy as needed with an update provided at the next School Board Meeting.

Requested School Board Motion for the SAU Board:

To authorize the Superintendent or his designee to respond at his discretion to changing public health circumstances and to allow the Superintendent the ability to modify or adapt SAU School Board Policy as needed to continue SAU services with an update provided at the next SAU School Board Meeting.

Additional Policy acknowledgement:

Policy BFE – Administration in Policy Absence – Policy allows the Superintendent the power to act in the absence of Policy

Emergency Management facilities access:

It is important for everyone to remember that our schools play an important role from a facilities perspective in support of local Emergency Management. Mountain View Middle School is the Emergency Management Shelter for the community of Goffstown, Goffstown High School is a Health Care Point of Dispensing (POD) for the Greater Manchester Area, and New Boston Central School is the Emergency Management Shelter for the community of New Boston. As this global pandemic evolves, our facilities will be ready to support the community in any Emergency Management capacity that is needed. We will continue to collaborate with local officials, Emergency Management, and our first responders in support of our citizens and our communities.

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Emergency Operations Plan – COVID-19 Intent:

- ◇ To provide accurate, timely COVID-19 information to the entire SAU19 Educational Community.

March 15, 2020

- ◇ This plan is a framework for all members of the SAU19 Educational Community to understand how we are responding to the constantly evolving public information about COVID-19.
- ◇ The Superintendent is requesting School Board approval through the temporary adoption of this plan as a Regulation to Policy EBCF – Pandemic-Epidemic Emergencies Regulation to authorize the Superintendent flexibility to respond to quickly evolving and emerging circumstances.
- ◇ It is important to know that this framework is intended to be an evolving response plan that will change in response to changing situations.
- ◇ Additional elements of the SAU19 COVID-19 Response Plan may be held confidential
  - RSA 91-A:3 Nonpublic Sessions
    - II. Only the following matters shall be considered or acted upon in nonpublic session:
      - (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life
  - RSA 91-A:5 Exemptions (governmental records exempt from public disclosure)
    - VI. Records pertaining to matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.
- ◇ We have a profound responsibility to balance COVID-19 concerns within our community and our schools with a steady, measured response based on current, accurate public health information.
- ◇ We have a profound responsibility to be honest, open, and direct with those in our Educational Community who may have compromised immune systems or other health factors.

March 15, 2020

- ◇ We are committed to schools being open and business as usual to the extent possible with the primary focus being public health.
- ◇ We are committed to minimizing the disruption to students, families, our faculty, and the community.

#### COVID-19 Response Plan:

- I. School operation status – the Superintendent has broad authority to determine the operational status of all SAU19 schools, buildings, and programs both short-term and long-term
  - A. Schools open
  - B. Some schools open – some schools closed – remote learning
  - C. Some/all Schools partially open with restrictions – remote learning
  - D. Schools closed
  - E. Schools closed – remote learning consistent with Ed 306.18(a)(7)
    - 1. A school district may conduct instruction remotely. The district shall create a plan that shall include procedures for participation by all students. Academic work shall be equivalent in effort and rigor to typical classroom work. There shall be an assessment of all student work for the day.
      - a) The SAU19 Remote Learning Plan continues to be developed with available deployment for 03/16/20
      - b) Remote learning considerations
        - (1) High school and middle school grading for remote learning will be pass/fail and high school class rank impact during remote learning will be suspended
        - (2) Special education and other support services
          - (a) If educational services (even remote) are provided to regular education students, special education services are also required. We are guided by U.S. DOE “Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak” available at: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

March 15, 2020

- (b) Extensive planning is ongoing to support our special education students – additional information will be shared with families
  - (c) Special education compliance will be impacted
  - (d) Technology resources and access for all families – see 1.5.2 and 1.5.3 below
  - (e) Remote learning equivalency
  - (f) Student and family contact and communication expectations from professional and support staff
  - (g) Role of and impact on support staff moving to a remote learning model
    - (i) Superintendent is granted authorization to continue to pay support staff – expectations TBD
- 2. School calendar
  - a) The superintendent is authorized to modify the school calendar at his discretion to implement this Regulation
  - b) At this point, a remote learning plan does not likely change the scheduled last day of school
  - c) For remote learning, any day that remote learning occurs counts as a school day – student attendance and participation will be documented – parents are requested to notify the school if students do not participate in remote learning due to illness or other factors
- 3. Parent discretion/choice of attendance or participation if schools are open
  - a) Superintendent will be granted the authority to waive or modify Policy or School Handbook requirements with respect to compulsory attendance
    - (1) Parental/guardian discretion will be honored for any students not in attendance due to unique family medical concerns
      - (a) Supplemental instructional materials will be provided if school is open and parents/guardians choose to keep their students home
- 4. Transportation
  - a) Superintendent is authorized to provide transportation as needed to implement this plan
  - b) Bus contracts with GTC and Durham require a 30-day notice to suspend services
- F. Access control to buildings – We will minimize exposure and possible community transmission

March 15, 2020

1. Public access to schools and SAU office
  - a) Superintendent is authorized to develop expectations and protocols
  - b) Please visit the SAU or school website for more information or call the school office
  - c) Students who need to pick up belongings may contact the school office to coordinate
2. Public gatherings
  - a) Public gatherings will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
  - b) Athletics – co-curricular activities are canceled
  - c) Field trips – all field trips are canceled
3. Individuals with illness or exposed to potential illness – the Superintendent is granted the authority to remove students or staff due to illness concerns
  - a) RSA 200:39 states that, “[w]henver any student exhibits symptoms of contagion or is a hazard to himself or others, he shall be excluded from the classroom and his parents or guardians shall be notified as soon as possible.”
  - b) Policy expectations and modifications may be needed based on changing recommendations from public health officials
  - c) Illness exposure disclosure expectations
    - (1) Travel and illness exposure/status disclosure is requested of all members of the SAU19 Educational Community
4. Social distancing expectations will be established and implemented
5. Restrictions – The Superintendent is authorized to create and enforce restrictions for student, staff, and community members to be on our school campuses
- G. Facilities management
  1. Policy KF – Community Use of School Facilities Policy is suspended until further notice
- H. Family Considerations
  1. Families that are food insecure – The SAU has applied for a waiver from the State to be able to provide families with food resources at no cost to anyone under 18
    - a) The SAU will continue to work with the Goffstown Network to support families with supplemental nutrition similar to our weekend food program

March 15, 2020

- b) A confidential voice mailbox has been established for Goffstown and New Boston families to request support for food insecurity – please call 603-660-5487 – this voice mailbox will be only accessed by Food Services Director Megan Bizzarro
- c) Families are encouraged to consider eligibility for free or reduced meals – please contact Food Services Director Megan Bizzarro
- 2. Families that do not have internet-enabled device that students can access
  - a) Families that may need a device to access remote learning are asked to call a newly established confidential voice mailbox and provide their information – please call 603-660-5489 and we will evaluate our ability to provide support
- 3. Families that do not have internet access
  - a) Comcast is offering free internet essentials for 60 days for low income families. <https://www.wxyz.com/news/national/coronavirus/comcast-offering-internet-essentials-package-free-for-60-months-during-coronavirus-outbreak>
  - b) Families may be able to access the local public libraries in Goffstown and New Boston for access to technology and internet
  - c) Paper and pencil options are being established - concerns about possible contamination of materials are being considered
    - (1) A voice mailbox box has been established to request paper and pencil remote learning – please call 603-660-5488
- 4. Families are recommended to maintain a reasonable schedule – to the extent possible – to keep kids in health routines
  - a) Establish bedtimes – wake up times
  - b) Encourage exercise, wellness, creative pursuits
  - c) Schedule remote learning time with expectations
  - d) Read – read – and then read more

## II. Communication methodologies

- a) Website – SAU19 website for COVID-19

March 15, 2020

- b) Alert notification
  - (1) School Messenger – parents please ensure your information in PowerSchool is accurate and you have opted in for voice, email, and text
- c) Video – the SAU remains committed to using video as a primary communication tool
- d) Social media
  - (1) Facebook
  - (2) Twitter
  - (3) Instagram – GTV
- e) Conference calling
- f) Video conferencing
- g) US Standard Mail

III. Contingency planning

- A. Extensive contingency planning is in process
- B. We are committed to keeping school offices and the SAU office operational to minimize impact across all departments