



# Illinois State Board of Education

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www.isbe.net

**Darren Reisberg**  
*Chair of the Board*

**Dr. Carmen I. Ayala**  
*State Superintendent of Education*

March 20, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Governor JB Pritzker announced today mandatory stay at home procedures for all Illinoisans, a necessary measure to slow the spread of a deadly and highly contagious pandemic. [Executive Order 2020-10](#) means in-person instruction will continue to be suspended through at least April 7, in order to help keep our communities safe. We have seen what happens in places that do not take these steps, and we have one opportunity to influence the future for Illinois.

**Personnel who are preparing and distributing meals to students are performing essential functions and are exempt from the stay at home mandate.**

As planned, every day through March 30 will count as an Act of God Day. ISBE has updated its [guidance](#) with new information about Advanced Placement exams and courses, serving homeless children and youth, supporting graduating high school seniors, and educator preparation and licensure.

Next week, ISBE will issue guidance regarding March 31 and beyond. While some parameters may shift from what has applied during the Act of God Days, two pillars absolutely will remain the same: all state funding will continue uninterrupted and no schools will experience negative consequences to the extent possible.

ISBE contemplates that districts eventually will transition to Remote Instructional Days. ISBE has assembled an advisory group composed of teachers, administrators, and stakeholders to make recommendations about what Remote Instructional Days could look like. This advisory group will explore what is possible and what is reasonable under these unprecedented circumstances, always recognizing the incredible diversity and varying capacity of our 852 school districts.

We are in uncharted territory. But ISBE is committed to making sure you have everything you need to achieve two singular priorities for as long as it is necessary to suspend in-person instruction:

1. Ensure all students' nutritional needs are met.
2. Ensure all students have access to remote instruction through whatever means possible.

With those goals in mind, please let us know by noon on Monday, March 23, what strategies you are employing to provide remote learning to students. This one-question survey at the bottom of

the [www.isbe.net/covid19](http://www.isbe.net/covid19) webpage should take less than two minutes to fill out. We will need to seek occasional feedback like this to understand how teaching and learning is happening across the state while in-person instruction is suspended.

Two of our sister agencies who are pivotal to the state's COVID-19 response have also asked for our help:

- **The Illinois Department of Public Health** is working to identify sources of N95 masks, both medical and industrial grade; Nitrile gloves; indirect vent protective goggles and facemasks; isolation gowns; and other personal protective equipment. If your school, vocational center, or Career and Technical Education program has any of these supplies and is willing to provide them to support the state's emergency response efforts, please contact Gabriel Lopez Cruz at [Gabriel.LopezCruz@Illinois.gov](mailto:Gabriel.LopezCruz@Illinois.gov). Even a small number of any of these supplies are helpful.
- **The Illinois Emergency Management Agency** is seeking to identify what other resources you may have available to assist others in times of need, such as food, shelter, storage space, generators, and personnel. With your consent, the information from this survey will be shared with the State Emergency Operations Center and will be utilized to mobilize resources as need arises. Please complete this survey at your earliest convenience: [tinyurl.com/utgo6e7](http://tinyurl.com/utgo6e7)

We have already been amazed by the wonderful ways that teachers, administrators, families, and volunteers have stepped up in this time of crisis. And let us always remember the why: to save lives – our neighbor's, our coworker's, our family's, our own.

Thank you – and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,



Dr. Carmen I. Ayala  
State Superintendent of Education  
Illinois State Board of Education