



## State Board of Education Approves Remote Learning Plan Guidelines, Licensure Policy Revisions, Relief Funding Changes

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The State Board of Education met this morning to address new COVID-19 issues, such as remote learning plans and school nutrition funds, while also approving modifications to ongoing COVID-19 issues, such as licensure requirements and benefits policies. Highlights of today's meeting can be found below:

### **SLA 1 - COVID-19: Remote Learning Plans**

- The State Board of Education approved a new proposed policy: [SPLN-006](#), providing guidelines for Remote Learning Plans, in response to [SL 2020-3, Senate Bill 704](#). The Plan shall include 13 components covering areas provided in legislation, such as staff remote communications and training, broadband and childcare access, equal access for students with disabilities, and remote instruction lesson designs. DPI staff also noted it would ask if remote learning plans could also include information on the limitations that exist for "quality remote learning based on each local context." The policy approved today notes NCDPI will share a Remote Learning Plan template by June 5, 2020.

### **ES & P 1 - COVID 19: Licensure, EVAL and EPP Policy Revisions (LICN-001, EVAL-024, TCED-008, TCED-009, and TCED-013 policies)**

- The State Board of Education approved the [licensure and educator preparation policy revisions](#) (LICN-001, EVAL-024, TCED-008, TCED-009, and TCED-013) due to COVID-19. On May 14, 2020, PEPSC unanimously approved licensure and EPP policy provisions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including revisions made in Senate Bill 704 (SL2020-3) regarding the closure of K-12 schools and EPPs because of COVID-19. An overview of the provisions is listed below:
  - [TCED-009](#) – EPP Admission requirements waived for 2020-21;
  - [EVAL-024](#) – Clinical Internships deemed complete and pedagogy exam can be taken in first year of licensure;
  - [TCED-008](#) – Sanctions will only include data that was practicably available during the 2019-20 academic year;
  - [TCED-013](#) – Accountability model will only include practicably available data from 2019-20. EPP report cards reported to JLEOC but not publicly reported on SBE/NCDPI website;
  - TCED-015 – MSA candidates' internship deemed complete for time before school closures; includes regular MSA and TP3;
  - [LICN-001](#) – Deadlines for completing licensure exams/coursework extended to June 30, 2021.

### **ES & P 2 - COVID-19: Benefits Policy Manual Revisions (BENF-001)**

- The State Board of Education approved revisions to the NC Public Schools Benefits and Employment Policy Manual ([BENF-001](#)) regarding changes to the rehiring of retirees because of COVID-19. NC Session Law 2020-3, Section 4.23.(a) provides an exception from the six-month waiting period for eligible retirees from the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS). Public schools who wish to avail themselves of this exception must contact the NC Retirement System to verify eligibility of the employee under the provisions of this statute.

### **ES & P 3 - COVID 19: Section 9.4.2 Contagious Disease Policy to Address 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic**

- The State Board of Education approved an [emergency policy addition extending the State of Emergency COVID-19 Sick Leave](#) from April 30, 2020 to June 15, 2020. The new policy addition notes if a school employee was scheduled to stop working before June 15, he or she would not be entitled to the Emergency Leave for days that the employee was not expected to work.

### **BSOP 1 - COVID-19: SBE Policy Amendment (ALOT-003) School Nutrition \$75 Million Allotment**

- The State Board of Education approved a [funding formula for \\$75 million in COVI-19 relief](#) funding for school nutrition provided by HB1043. The formula states "funds shall be allocated based on the proportion of State total of federal reimbursements and eligible student meal receipts the public school unit received in February 2020." DPI staff also shared a [proposed allocation document](#) outlining expected funds for each public school unit.

### **BSOP 2 – SBE Policy Amendment: COVID-19 Federal Funding Grant (ALOT-003)**

- The State Board of Education approved an [amendment to the funding formula for the K-12 Emergency Relief Fund \(PRC 163\)](#) to allow newly-opened charter schools to also be eligible for this funding.

### **Adoption of SBE Emergency Rules as Permanent Rules; in compliance with HB 362, Section 27(b)(1) of SL 2019-154)**

- The State Board of Education approved the adoption of dozens of Emergency Rules as Permanent Rules in compliance with HB 362, Section 27(b)(1) of SL 2019-154). The full list of the newly-adopted permanent rules can be found by clicking [here](#).

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