

**San Diego County Office of Education
Business Services Division**

COVID-19 FAQ's

Attendance

1. How will closures affect ADA and P-2 reporting?

SB-117 chaptered 3/17/2020

http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB117&showamends=false

SECTION 1. (a) For local educational agencies that comply with Executive Order N–26–20, and for purposes of average daily attendance claimed for apportionment purposes pursuant to Section 41601 of the Education Code, for the 2019–20 school year average daily attendance reported to the State Department of Education for the second period and the annual period for local educational agencies shall only include all full school months from July 1, 2019, to February 29, 2020, inclusive. Any applicable contrary provisions in Sections 1244 and 41601 of the Education Code are waived.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/covidfaqs.asp>

Fixed Divisor Programs (Community Day School, Special Education Extended Year): Programs where attendance is calculated using a fixed divisor are permitted to reduce their divisor for COVID-19 closure days provided the LEA submits the supplemental certification form to CDE.

2. Do school districts need to send waivers to CDE for lost instructional time due to closures?

SB-117 chaptered 3/17/2020

http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB117&showamends=false

SEC. 2. (a) To prevent the loss of funding related to an instructional time penalty because of a school closed due to the coronavirus (COVID–19), instructional days and minutes that a local educational agency would otherwise have offered pupils to meet the requirements of Sections 41420, 46207, 46208, and paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 47612.5 of the Education Code, and their implementing regulations, during the period of time the school was closed due to COVID–19 are deemed to be met.

(b) Pursuant to Executive Order N–26–20, the superintendent of a school district, county superintendent of schools, or administrator of a charter school of a school closed due to COVID–19 shall certify in writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the school was closed due to COVID–19 and provide any additional information related to the school closure that is requested by the Superintendent.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/covidfaqs.asp>

In-lieu of the Form J-13A (Revised December 2017), an LEA that closed school in response to COVID-19 must submit to the CDE the Certification Form for COVID-19 Closure (COVID-19 Closure Form) (*Coming Soon*). An LEA does not need to submit the COVID-19 Closure Form now but should submit the COVID-19 Closure Form to CDE as soon as possible once the emergency is over. This way the LEA can determine the exact number of school closure days to be included in the certification.

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3. Are there changes to class size penalty reporting?

CSP should be reported as usual for P-2. Grades K-3 should continue to use the last day of the school month ending prior to April 15 and grades 4-8 should continue to use the sixth school month. Please report data as you normally would and do not use the partial reporting period option on the CSP data entry screen in the PADC software.

State Grants

4. Is my district eligible for any state grants relating to COVID-19?

Yes, SB 117 COVID-19 LEA Response Funds will be allocated to each county office of education, school district, and charter school on the basis of ADA, as certified in the 2019-20 First Principal Apportionment. This funding is to be used for costs associated with maintaining nutrition services, cleaning and disinfecting facilities, personal protective equipment, and materials necessary to provide students with opportunities for distance learning. The priority for these funds is health and safety needs for LEAs, including for student meal access, during COVID-19 closure periods. 100% of this funding is expected to be apportioned during the week of April 6, 2020. For standardized account code structure coding, use Resource Code 7388, SB 117 COVID-19 LEA Response Funds, and Revenue Object Code 8590, All Other State Revenue. See *Attachment 5* for grant amounts by LEA in San Diego County.

CDE will not provide additional guidance beyond the eligible uses of funds reflected in the apportionment letter. LEAs will make local decisions to ensure they are spending the funds appropriately. Absent any statutory provision, there is not a start date or expiration date at the local level. However, these funds are meant to address needs of the LEAs within the restricted purposes during the COVID-19 crisis. LEAs should use a common sense approach looking to the intent and appropriate use of the funding as described in the bill and CDE's apportionment letter.

Federal Grants

5. How does my district apply for FEMA funding due to the COVID-19 Pandemic?

If your school district has incurred, is incurring, or may incur costs responding to the federally declared emergency for the COVID-19 Pandemic, you may be eligible for federal reimbursement. To be eligible for reimbursement, you must submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) ~~no later than close of business Friday, April 17, 2020.~~ The RPA can now be completed up to thirty days after the incident period for the disaster event closes. We advise all LEAs to file the RPA so they can consider seeking federal funds for COVID-related expenses later. The Cal OES is advising LEAs to submit sooner rather than later and avoid waiting until the last minute.

Assistance for emergency protective measures includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Disinfection of eligible public facilities
- Training specific to the declared event
- Emergency Operation Center costs

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School districts that already have a Grants Portal Account can log on to their account and submit an RPA through the portal.

For school districts that want to apply and do not have a Grants Portal Account, Cal OES Recovery will need to send them an Invitation to set up their Account, which is generated from Grants Portal. In order for Cal OES Recovery to send an Invitation, please send an email to DisasterRecovery@caloes.ca.gov with a point of contact first and last name, phone number, and email address. Once Cal OES sends the invitation, Recovery personnel will reach out to the contact and provide instructions for completing account set up and submitting an RPA.

For more information: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/19/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-eligible-emergency-protective-measures>

See SDCOE District Resources under “Disaster Relief Grants” for additional information:
<https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/District-Resources>

The following information is from the April 6 webinar: *FEMA Public Assistance Grant Process* Public Assistance Program, Category B has been opened up

- Each school district will need to apply on the portal as their own applicant with FEMA
FEMA Eligibility Fact Sheet provides details of the eligible assistance: https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/District%20Resources/CA_COVID-19_Eligibility_Fact_Sheet.pdf?ver=2020-04-03-162137-307
 - Personnel overtime costs is allowable. However, reimbursement cannot be claimed for the time an employee is otherwise paid to work under normal conditions (i.e. 40 hours per week)
 - Application Process
 - Link for application guide: https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/District%20Resources/Quick_Reference_Set_up_GP_Account_and_Submit_RPA.pdf?ver=2020-04-03-162137-307
 - Follows the steps outlined in the guide
 - Process can be started immediately by following steps 1 and 2 under invitation
 - E-mail response may take 1-2 days
 - Do not need reimbursement estimates when requesting a Grants Portal Account
 - Respond with “NO” for item #18 listed in the Quick Reference Set up GP Account guide above when completing the application
18. Select YES or NO from the “Participated in PDA?” drop down menu (in this case, its NO). Note: (PDA = Preliminary Damage Assessment)
- Participated in PDA? Select...
- Timeline
 - Applications are due by **April 17th** within 30 days after the incident period for the disaster event closes
 - Process is fluid, communicate to the assigned FEMA contact if there are issues along the way
 - Documents to be Completed
 - Application

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- Cal OES-89 Project Assurance for Federal Assistance
 - https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/District%20Resources/Cal_OES_89_Project_Assurances_for_Federal_Assistance.pdf?ver=2020-04-03-162137-307
 - Can be signed by CBO or Superintendent, does not need to be board approved
- Cal OES 130 Designation of Applicants Agent Resolution For Non-State Agencies
 - https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/District%20Resources/Cal_OES_130_Designation_of_Applicants_Agent_Resolution_For_Non-State_Agencies.pdf?ver=2020-04-03-162137-307
 - Must be signed by the board – **can be a regularly scheduled board meeting or a special board meeting**
- Recommendations
 - All questions should be sent to the FEMA contact assigned to your district to ensure a response is recorded in an email to save for future use if questions arise in the future regarding reimbursement.
 - Good reference guide to use is the FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide regarding Category B Funding (starts on Page 57)
https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1525468328389-4a038bbef9081cd7dfe7538e7751aa9c/PAPPG_3.1_508_FINAL_5-4-2018.pdf
- Link to additional FAQ's from the webinar: https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/Portals/covid-19/Documents/District%20Resources/20-04-06_Disaster_Relief_Application_Webinar_Q_A.pdf?ver=2020-04-06-162741-623

6. Will my district receive additional relief from the Federal CARE Act stimulus package?

Elementary and Secondary Education Emergency Relief Fund: \$13.5 billion in formula funding will be provided directly to states. Funding is provided to help schools respond to coronavirus and related school closures, meet the immediate needs of students and teachers, improve the use of education technology, support distance learning, and make up for lost learning time.

SBE must allocate at least 90% to LEAs as subgrants in the proportion that the LEAs receive Title I funds

Use of Funds:

- i. Coordinate preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- ii. Provide principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools
- iii. Address the needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- iv. Purchase educational technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students, including low-income students and students with disabilities
- v. Provide mental health services and supports

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- vi. Plan and implement activities related to summer learning and supplemental after school programs, including online instruction
- vii. Maintain the continuity of services in local education agencies and continuing to employ existing staff

Governors Emergency Relief Fund: \$3 billion nationally

Allocated to states will be determined 60% on the basis of the states relative population of school-aged individuals (ages 5-24) and 40% on the basis of its relative children counted under Section 1124© of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ("ESEA").

Intent of funding is to provide emergency support to education agencies most impacted and to provide educational services and support ongoing functionality.

7. How will closures affect federal grant carry-overs? Will waivers be authorized to extend expenditure deadlines?

~~Title I: CDE may waive the 15 percent carryover limitation only once every three years if the LEA's request is reasonable and necessary.~~

~~Any carryover funds over 15% as of September 30, 2020 must have a waiver approved by CDE which will be found in the January 2021 CARS release~~

21st Century Act (Perkins V): CDE is currently working on obtaining a state waiver of maintenance of effort. More details will follow as CDE does not have clear direction at this time with how to proceed.

Awarding agencies may allow grantees to delay submission of financial, performance and other reports up to three months beyond the normal due date.

If an agency allows such a delay, grantees will continue to draw down Federal Funds without the timely submission of these reports. Must be submitted at the end of the postponed period.

8. What are requirements for federal time accounting during closures? Can employees continue to be charged to federal grants during closures?

LEAs should create a policy for paying salaries and benefits under extraordinary circumstances if a policy does not already exist.

- i. LEA should determine the scope of the policy, should it be broad to also include hourly and part-time staff?
- ii. Needs to be consistently applied between federal and non-federal activities
- iii. Must be funding neutral

If staff are working from a remote location, they should account for their time and effort based on what they are currently working on.

Allowable if cost for compensation is reasonable for services rendered and conforms to established written policy consistently applied to both federal and non-federal activities

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Must be supported by time and effort documentation

Records must:

1. Be supported by a system of internal controls which provides reasonable assurance charges are accurate, allowable and allocable
2. Be incorporated into official records
3. Reasonably reflect total activity for which employee is compensated
4. Encompass all activities (federal and non-federal)
5. Comply with established accounting policies and practices
6. Support distribution among specific activities or cost objectives

If staff are on leave due to school closures, in accordance with Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations Section 200.431(b) the cost of fringe benefits in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as for annual leave, family-related leave, sick leave, holidays, court leave, military leave, administrative leave, and other similar benefits are allowable if all of the following criteria are met: (1) They are provided under established written leave policies; (2) The costs are equitably allocated to all related activities, including federal awards; and (3) the accounting basis selected for costing each type of leave is consistently followed by the non-federal entity or specified grouping of employees.

9. Can positions be repurposed during the school closures to perform other duties and tasks?

LEAs must still comply with grant purposes and intended beneficiaries. Must perform activities within the grant parameters.

10. Can cancellation fees be charged to federal grant program due to loss of operations?

Recipients are permitted to charge costs related to the cancellation of events, travel, or other activities necessary and reasonable for the performance of the award, or the pausing and restarting of grant funded activities, due to the public health emergency.

- i. Recipients must maintain appropriate cost documentation.

11. Are there any procurement exemptions for federal programs related to COVID-19?

Geographical preferences are waived, could give preference to local or in state vendors

Affirmative steps to ensure that small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible are waived

12. Are technology purchases allowable under federal grant programs to resume activities supported by the award?

~~Title I: Can be purchased to help improve academic achievement through distance/virtual learning. However, supplement not supplant provisions still apply and must be followed.~~

~~Title II, A: Can be allowable for professional development for effectively integrating technology into instruction~~

~~Title IV: Technology purchases may be allowable under well rounded education and safe & healthy students, which is outside the 15% tech limitation for effective use of technology; must follow supplement not supplant provisions~~

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- i. ~~15% tech limitation is for expenditures related to devices, equipment, software applications, platforms, digital instruction resources and/or other one-time IT purchases.~~

13. What flexibility is available under Federal ESEA funding?

The U.S. Department of Education has preliminarily approved California's request for flexibility in using federal funds to ease the immediate impacts of COVID-19 school closures. Through these waivers, California is able to:

- Approve a local educational agency (LEA) to carry over more than 15 percent of its Title I, Part A funds, even if the LEA had received approval to exceed this limitation in the past three years.
- Extend at the state and LEA level the period of availability of fiscal year (FY) 2018 funds for programs included in the Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan to allow additional time to obligate those funds.
- Permit an LEA or consortium of LEAs to use its Title IV, Part A funds to best meet its needs without regard to existing content-area spending requirements, spending limits on technology infrastructure, or completing a needs assessment for FY 2018 and 2019.
- Waive the definition of professional development so that the state and LEA may more easily conduct time-sensitive, one-time or stand-alone professional development focused on supporting educators to provide effective distance learning.

CDE is accepting public comments via e-mail to ESSA@cde.ca.gov on the waiver application through May 1. See *Attachment 6* for more details about the waiver request.

Food Services

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/schoolmeals.asp> Updated March 27, 2020

The CDE webpage is now called "School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals" and applies to all federal Child Nutrition Programs. The CDE will continue to provide updated guidance in the coming days to reflect waiver processes for meal flexibilities and providing meals to parents or legal guardians of eligible children when the child is not physically present.

Requirements

Schools or other community organizations that are approved to operate the SSO or SFSP can serve non-congregate meals during COVID-19 at school sites that are dismissed or closed **by submitting a request to SNPINFO@cde.ca.gov**. CDE staff are monitoring this email address regularly. No meal applications or fees are collected from children. The following is important information to include in the request:

- Name of organization/school and list of school site closures the non-congregate food distribution will serve
- Timeframe for starting meal distribution
- Method(s) of meal distribution
- Outreach efforts to communicate meal distribution
- Method to focus services to families with children eligible for free and reduced-price meals
- Basic information on meal counting, food safety, and oversight of the meal distribution, including information to offer foods for multiple days

To be eligible for federal reimbursement, meals can be served to all children 18 years and younger in communities where 50 percent or more of the children are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals. In communities with schools that have a student eligibility of less than 50 percent free or reduced-priced

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meals, the non-congregate meal distribution method needs to focus services to children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

More than one meal can be offered to each child. The meal types that each child can receive per day include any one of the following combinations:

- Breakfast and lunch
- Breakfast and snack
- Lunch and snack
- Two snacks

The CDE Nutrition Services Division will be providing updated meal flexibility requirements next week. The Resource Section of this guidance includes a link to all meal rates. Below are the 2020 federal reimbursement rates for SFSP meals:

Type of Meal	Rural or Self-Prep	All Other Site Types
Breakfast	\$2.2975	\$2.255
Lunch or Supper	\$4.0325	\$3.9675
Snacks	\$0.9525	\$0.9325

14. Can my district offer meal delivery or provide meals for multiple days?

Yes, with CDE approval. Per the USDA's SP 08-2020 Meal Service During COVID-19 Questions and Answers, districts may offer meals for multiple days, up to one week at a time. The USDA recently released COVID-19 SFSP and SSO Meal Delivery questions and answer guide. You can read the complete guide here: <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SFSP-Meal-Delivery-QA.pdf>

15. Do children have to be present at meal sites in order to receive a meal?

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19-parents-and-guardians-waiver>

Nationwide Waiver to allow parents and guardians to pick up meals for children
Under this waiver, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19-related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their children. However, State agencies must have a plan for ensuring that Program operators are able to maintain accountability and program integrity. This includes putting in place processes to ensure that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children, and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child. State agencies may want to consult local Program operators when developing their plans as local Program operators are best situated to determine how to provide these assurances. This waiver is effective immediately and remains in effect until June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. [CDE is working to update the guidance webpage with further information.]

16. If an LEA does not currently have a summer food service program, are they required to start one during the school closure period as a condition of continuing to receive state funding?

LEAs are not required to start a summer food service program, but we would expect LEAs to meet this moment by implementing the necessary programs to do what they can to meet the

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needs of their students while schools are closed. CDE NSD can approve existing schools that typically operate SSO or SFSP in the summer months to open a COVID-19 SSO/SFSP site within 24 hours to 36 hours of their request. Information on how to apply is available at:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/ssfoins.asp>

17. Will federal requirements to modify offerings when costs exceed reimbursement be waived?

18. Are there exceptions to meeting the federal meal pattern requirements?

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19-meal-pattern-flexibility-waiver>

Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs

State agencies should inform local Program operators of the availability of this waiver as quickly as possible, and work in partnership with them to determine if this waiver is necessary to ensure access to nutritious meals. The State agency must approve use of this waiver on a case-by-case basis, and must report to the FNS Regional Office when and where this waiver is in effect and for what food components. When reviewing requests from local Program operators, the State agency should consider requests that are targeted and justified based upon disruptions to the availability of food products resulting from unprecedented impacts of COVID-19. FNS expects and strongly encourages Program operators to maintain and meet the nutrition standards for each Program to the greatest extent possible. FNS stands ready to provide technical assistance and to offer alternatives to help stakeholders meet meal patterns. As a reminder, Federal procurement regulations at 2 CFR 200.320(f) allow procurement by noncompetitive proposals when there is a public emergency.

CDE posted the [Meal Pattern Waiver Application:](#)

<http://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/s.asp?k=158526719023>

19. Can food be offered at all school and district sites regardless of previous program participation?

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel10.asp>

CDE Nutrition Services Division (NSD) can approve existing schools that typically operate SSO or SFSP in the summer months to open a COVID-19 SSO or SFSP site within 24 hours to 36 hours of their request. Meal distribution sites should be located in areas that are easily accessible to children eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Schools do not need to distribute meals on a school site and can distribute them at another site convenient to the community such as, but not limited to, local food banks, resource centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, community centers, and libraries.

20. Can we apply for reimbursement during this disaster period under the disaster relief reimbursement provisions in addition to reimbursement for the meals we are serving now under SSO or SFSP?

No, if a district applies for the USDA COVID-19 waiver, then they cannot apply for the disaster waiver.

21. Are there changes to bid requirements during closures?

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/noncompet solicitations.asp>

Title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 200.320(f)(2) allows the use of a noncompetitive solicitation to ensure children continue to receive meals in the event of supply chain disruptions

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from school closures or other COVID-19 impacts. SNP's must continue to document procurements and maintain those records for the appropriate allotment of time.

22. Are there changes to Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) deadlines?

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19-cep-deadlines-waiver>

Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision Deadlines in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

Under Sections 11(a)(1)(F)(iii)(I) and 11(a)(1)(F)(v)(I) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1759a, LEAs must calculate the CEP identified student percentage (ISP) using data as of April 1. FNS regulations further require at 7 CFR 245.9(f)(3)(i) and 7 CFR 245.9(f)(4)(i) that LEAs intending to elect CEP or conduct a grace year in the following year must submit to the State agency counts of identified and enrolled students as of April 1 of the prior school year (SY). However, FNS recognizes that in this public health emergency, alternative feeding operations are demanding State and local Program operators' resources, and additional time is necessary to meet upcoming CEP deadlines. Therefore, FNS waives, for all States and LEAs, the above referenced statutory and regulatory requirements. Instead, for LEAs electing CEP or conducting a grace year in SY 2020-21, the ISP may be calculated using data drawn any time between April 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020. LEAs must submit the list of eligible schools to the state by June 15, 2020.

23. May program operators serving meals through the Summer Food Service Program or the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option during an unanticipated school closure serve meals on weekends of previously scheduled days off, such as spring break and teacher workdays?

Yes. Where schools are closed for an unanticipated school closure due to COVID-19, with State agency approval, SFSP and SSO service institutions may serve meals on days when schools had originally planned to be closed, including weekends, spring break, and other previously scheduled days off. After careful review, FNS has determined that, because the unanticipated pandemic school closures justify continued operation of SFSP and SSO, such meals may be served when there is an ongoing unanticipated closure due to COVID-19. Please note that after your school year ends, SFSP and SSO operate under normal summer conditions (which also includes weekends and holidays with State agency approval).

24. Who should I notify if a food handler in my district becomes a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case?

The district should immediately notify the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) by calling (858) 505-6814.

- **Responsibility of the Food Employee**

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Report the information to the facility's Person-in-Charge.
- Comply with order to self-isolate and or self-quarantine as specified by the County of San Diego Order of the Health Officer.

- **Responsibility of the Person-in-Charge**

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- The person in charge of a food facility is required to report to the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health any reportable illness, including COVID-19.
- **Guidance of County Public Health Services**
 - An employee must self-quarantine for at least 14 days if the employee has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Employee can only return to work when fully recovered and symptom free for three days.
 - Employees that have come in close contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19 must self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

Employee Pay

25. Are districts required to continue paying substitutes and temporary employees?

SB-117 chaptered 3/17/2020

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB117&showamends=false

SECTION 1. (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that a local educational agency receiving a hold harmless apportionment pursuant to this section ensures that the local educational agency's employees and contractors are compensated and paid during the period of time a school is closed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), as reasonably anticipated if the school has not been closed due to COVID-19.

Bargaining

26. Are statutory timelines for lay-offs still in effect?

There have not been any directives or guidance concerning the timelines for layoff. At this point the timelines have not been modified. Districts should get advice from their counsel on this issue given the complexity, collective bargaining issues and multiple education code section that may apply to any given process for lay-off.

Vendor Payments

27. What third party vendors and independent contractors should continue to be paid during closures?

SB-117 chaptered 3/17/2020

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB117&showamends=false

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SDCOE is adding a second weekly commercial warrant run on Thursdays, beginning March 26 to assist with this effort. Commercial Warrants will now be printed and mailed out every Monday and Thursday.

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Testing

28. Are deadlines for required testing changed due to the closures?

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel15.asp>

CDE announced on March 27, 2020 that California received preliminary approval to waive required federal testing for the 2019-20 school year from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). There is a public comment period through April 15 that will be included with CDE's final waiver application to the ED for formal approval.

Financial Accounting and Reporting Deadlines

29. Will the deadline for the notice of public hearing be extended?

Yes, the deadline to return the information for the notice of public hearing to Financial Reporting will be extended to April 15, and possibly further. Please consult list of news publications in *Attachment 1* to determine publishing deadlines for your district.

Districts should consider including options to view documents electronically as part of public inspection, as well as the potential that the board meeting will be held via teleconference. SDCOE will provide sample language for the notices.

30. Will the deadline for governing boards to approve audit contracts be extended?

At this time, this remains a statutory deadline that has not been waived. However, we do not report the information to the State Controller's Office until May 31, so we have some flexibility. Please contact your Business Advisor to discuss your district's circumstances.

31. Will the deadline to submit resolution of audit findings be extended?

Yes, the deadline to resolve audit findings with SDCOE is extended to April 15.

Impacts to Other School Programs & Services

32. Preschool & Early childhood programs

SB-117 chaptered 3/17/2020

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB117&show_amends=false

SEC. 5. (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, on or before June 30, 2020, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop informal directives and bulletins, in compliance with Executive Orders, to address contractual and reporting requirements applicable for the 2019–20 fiscal year for childcare and development programs impacted by the coronavirus (COVID–19).

(b) To ensure continuity of payments to state-subsidized childcare and development programs, the attendance and reporting requirements imposed on childcare and development programs pursuant to Sections 8221.5, 8230, 8235, 8240, 8245, 8250, 8351, 8353, and 8354 of the Education Code, and subdivision (a) of Section 18056 of Title 5 of the California Code of

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Regulations, are waived for programs that comply with an Executive Order, subject to guidance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to this section. Pursuant to guidance and direction from the Superintendent, childcare and development programs shall be reimbursed using the most recent certified record or invoice available.

33. Where can I find more information about providing emergency childcare services for essential workers and at-risk populations?

See MB 20-06 for extensive guidance from CDE: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb2006.asp>
Direct early learning and care contractors (CCTR, CSPP, CFCC) are encouraged to provide Emergency Childcare for essential workers to the extent that their contract funds support additional enrollment. At this time there is no additional funding being awarded to contractors for this purpose. Contractors are required to notify their CDE regional consultant and local Resource and Referral (R&R) agency if they are choosing to provide Emergency Childcare for essential workers during the State of Emergency. Contractors that choose to provide Emergency Child Care are required to comply with the additional health and safety guidelines below through June 30, 2020. The CDE is working with the Administration to identify additional funding to support increased subsidized access to Emergency Childcare.

34. After School Education & Safety (ASES)

SB-117 chaptered 3/17/2020

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB117&show_amends=false

SEC. 4. For local educational agencies that comply with Executive Order N-26-20, and to ensure continuity of funding for the After School Education and Safety Program established by Article 22.5 (commencing with Section 8482) of Chapter 2 of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, a school closure due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) shall be considered a qualifying event for purposes of subdivision (d) of Section 8482.8 of the Education Code, and the obligation for a program grantee to submit a request for pupil attendance credits is waived. Program grantees shall be credited with the average annual attendance that the grantee would have received if it had been able to operate its entire program during the period of time the school was closed due to COVID-19.

35. Will funding for the 21st Century Grant continue?

Yes, the funding will continue. Any After School Education and Safety or 21st Century Community Learning Center program closure or decreased participation related to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) will receive attendance relief to protect grant funding per Education Code Section 8482.8(d).

36. Can ASSETs funds be carried over for next year?

Per CDE program office on 4/13/2020, no decision has been made on ASSETs carryover yet. However, due to the intent of the legislative orders to enable districts to continue paying staff and contracts and because districts are still getting funding and attendance relief to support the economic concerns of its employees and contracts, we can infer that having a balance in the

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afterschool funds may mean that sites are not paying staff and contracts. [We will update when we have final guidance.]

Construction and Maintenance Projects

37. Are construction projects that were already scheduled expected to continue?

This is a district decision. All projects at SDCOE facilities or managed by SDCOE are planning to continue as scheduled.

38. Is there any assurance we can provide to contractors to allow continued access to schoolsites during closures?

Not at this time; however, reference SB-117 expectation to continue paying contractors during closures.

Facility Cleaning & Disinfection

39. What are the requirements districts must follow for cleaning and disinfecting of facilities?

The CDC has recommended the use of bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol content and most common EPA-Registered disinfectants to be effective against the Coronavirus.

These disinfectants generally contain one or more of the following active ingredients:

- Isopropanol
- Ethanol
- Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats)
- Sodium Hypochlorite (bleach)
- Hydrogen Peroxide

An updated list of these disinfectants can be found on the Environmental Protection Agency's Webpage at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Before using disinfectants or any hazardous chemicals, proper training is required. Sanitizers and disinfectants have specific directions on their labels; when these products are not used properly, it makes them ineffective and potentially hazardous.

Please see the March 2020 newsletter from the JPA in *Attachment 3* for more information.

Zoom Meetings – Best Practices

40. How can I prevent “Zoombombing” during a Zoom board meeting?

Please see *Attachment 4*, “How to stop Zoombombers” for tips