



**NEA • NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**NHSP** New Hampshire  
Association of School Principals



**NHSAA**

New Hampshire School Administrators Association

Hon. Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor, State of New Hampshire

RE: Request to Close School Buildings During State of Emergency

March 26, 2020

Dear Governor Sununu,

On March 15, 2020, Emergency Order #1 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 regarding temporary remote instruction and support was issued, requiring that schools be closed to students beginning March 16, 2020 in order to allow each school district to develop remote instruction and remote support capacity, and that this remote instruction and support begin no later than Monday March 23, 2020.

The order also requires the Department of Education to provide assistance and guidance to school districts in the development and implementation of each school district's temporary remote instruction and support plan.

Given the escalating need to limit the interaction between people during this critical time, many state agencies and New Hampshire employers have moved to a remote work environment for their employees. Now that we have entered the remote instruction and support period, we believe this remote work environment should hold true for our state's school buildings as well.

Therefore, we are asking that you instruct Commissioner Edelblut to issue guidance to school districts that all teachers, administrators, education support professionals and staff not be required to enter any school buildings while they remain closed to students unless it is necessary to ensure the safety of the facility or to satisfy the continuity of meal preparation and distribution. School districts implementing remote instruction and support should be enabling their staff to do so remotely as well and, if they are struggling with this, the Department should provide assistance in this regard.

School districts across the state are handling this issue differently and, as this is a public health matter not bound by district lines, we believe it is essential for you to order this guidance to our schools and educators.

We appreciate the work you and your team are doing for our state in this extraordinary time and our organizations stand ready to help assist you with this request.

Sincerely,

*Megan Tuttle*

Megan Tuttle  
NEA-NH

*Bridey Bellemare*

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