



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 29, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

From: Kevin Dehmer  
Interim Commissioner of Education

## **Executive Order 175: Re-Opening Schools for In-Person Instruction Subject to Critical Health and Safety Standards**

On August 13, 2020, Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order 175](#) ("Order") lifting the State's requirement that schools remain closed to students for in-person instruction. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), receiving schools, and nonpublic schools must review the Department's [guidance document](#), which includes the requirements for compliance with EO 175 along with directions for completing the required Statement of Assurance and Health and Safety Status form, as applicable.

The Order, among other provisions:

- Allows public and nonpublic school districts to resume partial or full-time in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year;
- Codifies the critical health and safety standards with which in-person instruction at public and nonpublic schools must comply, consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education's ("Department") "Checklist for Re-Opening of School 2020-2021" and detailed in "The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education" and its updates;
- Affirms the requirements that both in-person and remote public school days must satisfy pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9;
- Requires public school district and school building policies for attendance and instructional contact time to accommodate opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction;
- Requires that all public school district instructional time be provided in accordance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards;
- Authorizes public school districts to provide full-time remote instruction to all students if the district is or becomes unable to satisfy health and safety standards for in-person instruction;
- Waives statutory requirement that educator evaluations for the 2020-2021 school year include student growth data based on standardized assessments; and
- Requires all school districts participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, regardless of whether they are required to participate or voluntarily opt into the programs, to offer the required meals to all children, regardless of eligibility, when the school day involves at least four hours of in-person or remote instruction.
- Codifies the [Expectations Regarding Full-time Remote Learning Options for Families in 2020-2021](#) published by the Department on July 24, 2020.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group