

Update on the COVID-19 Response in Education

Daniel M. French, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education
January 12, 2021

Phases of COVID-19 Response

- Phase I (March – June) - Emergency
- Phase II (June – September) - Reopening
- Phase III (September - ?) - Continuous COVID Operations
- Phase IV (? - ?) - Recovery

Reopening/Operations Guidance

- All schools must follow mitigation guidance:
 - Daily health checks including staff/students who are sick stay home
 - Distancing
 - Wear masks
 - Disinfection
- Districts can decide instructional mode

Communications Support

- AOE COVID-19 Response Team and Help Desk
- Interface with planning from Governor's Office
- Weekly email updates
- Weekly call with superintendents
- Weekly Advisory Group meeting

Financial Support

- CARES Act
 - Coronavirus Relief: child nutrition, air quality, general district grant, independent schools
 - ESSER
 - GEER
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act
 - ESSER II
 - GEER II and EANS

Moving Towards Recovery

- Recovery – mitigating the impact of the emergency on the education and healthy development of students
 - Preliminary planning underway, three domains: Mental Health and Well-being, Re-Engagement and Truancy, and Academic Success and Achievement
 - Require district-level recovery plans coordinated through EST: 1) identifying priorities in each district, 2) single interface for state services, and 3) focus recovery funding and other resources