



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

April 16, 2020

Dear Education Leaders,

Earlier today, I formally announced the extension of Executive Order #1, *Temporary remote instruction and support for public K-12 school districts*, for the remainder of the school year. This was not a decision reached lightly. My office, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, reviewed several different models and scenarios in the hope that we might have been able to reinstate learning in classroom settings. In the end, we determined that there is no model available at the present time to responsibly ensure the safety of our students, educators, faculty, and staff.

Commissioner Edclblut and I appreciate that this presents a continued hardship for students, teachers, administrators and parents. We also know that it is heartbreaking for our high school seniors who have worked so hard over the course of their academic careers to get to this point, only to have the celebrations that they and their families were looking forward to enjoying not materialize. That said, public health and the safety must be paramount in our decision-making. Therefore, while this is a very difficult decision, it is the correct one.

What you have accomplished over the last four weeks has been nothing short of remarkable and I am incredibly grateful for your leadership. School districts across New Hampshire have embraced a new normal, ensuring our students are able to continue learning in a new environment. New Hampshire's educators are critical to our COVID-19 response and each of you has risen to the challenge. All of us in state government have been inspired by your perseverance and creativity under difficult circumstances. You have truly risen to the occasion.

It has been an all-hands-on-deck effort, from superintendents, to teachers, parents, bus-drivers, food service workers, custodial staff, and of course, the students. We know that this has been far from easy. However, New Hampshire has led the nation in instituting remote learning and we will continue to do so. Just a few weeks ago, the Vice President of the United States highlighted New Hampshire's innovative model, and cited us as the state leading the way in remote learning. This recognition is well deserved and a great credit to your hard work.

For the remainder of this school year, I encourage you to embrace flexibility and consider measures such as potentially forgoing formal grading, and instead adopting a pass/fail model to assist students and parents as they undertake remote learning for this extended period.

We have also chosen to make this decision now so that you may begin planning for your summer programs. The New Hampshire Department of Education will be providing school districts with

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guidance by the middle of May on how to conduct Extended School Year (EYS) programs and other summer programming.

We will continue to work with you to identify opportunities to provide your districts with financial relief through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We will do everything we can to ensure that your districts do not experience a significant financial hardship because of this epidemic.

On behalf of our entire state, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and commitment. I know that the passion with which you have embraced this new learning environment is the same one that you bring to your classrooms every day, but your cooperation and dedication during this epidemic has been immensely helpful to our students, administrators, and families.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor