

Rural Education Updates from the U.S. Department of Education

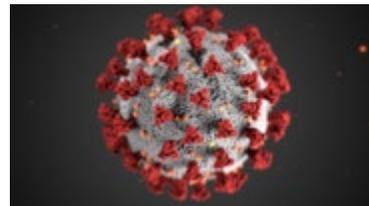
Partners and Friends,

Welcome to the Education Almanac, rural updates from the U.S. Department of Education. Each month, the Department highlights opportunities, events, news, and other information relevant to rural schools and communities. We will also feature schools and leaders who are rethinking education in order to make a positive difference in rural students' lives. We welcome your feedback and questions. Please feel free to share them to rural@ed.gov.

Thank you,
Michael Chamberlain
U.S. Department of Education

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Over the last few weeks, the White House, the Department of Education, and other federal agencies have released a significant amount of guidance to support schools, educators, and families regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). For updated information, please visit [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov), [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus), and [USA.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus).



For education-related information, the Department has established a dedicated Coronavirus webpage (ed.gov/coronavirus), which includes resources for institutions of higher education and for K-12.

- The website includes [guidance](#) for students at institutions of higher education, and covers Coronavirus-related scenarios that could impact students who are enrolled in study abroad programs, students who meet full-time requirements but fall below 12 credit hours, students who are quarantined and miss class, campuses that have temporarily stopped offering ground-based classes to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, and foreign schools that serve Americans who receive Federal financial aid.
- Also see [a letter from the Office for Civil Rights](#) that addresses potential discrimination associated with coronavirus.

The Department has provided additional information for families and communities including:

- [Information](#) regarding certain flexibilities under the Every Student Succeeds Act, or “ESSA;”
- [Information](#) regarding services to children with disabilities;

- A [fact sheet](#) from our Office for Civil Rights on the risk of Coronavirus in schools while protecting the civil rights of students; and a short [webinar](#) on Online Education and Website Accessibility.
- [Information](#) on the Family Education Records Privacy Act, or “FERPA,” as it pertains to K-12 and higher education students.
- [Information](#) for Accrediting Agencies Regarding Temporary Flexibilities Provided to Coronavirus Impacted Institutions or Accrediting Agencies.

The Department will continue to update its website, ed.gov/coronavirus. Please direct education related questions to COVID-19@ed.gov.