
From: Fewel Teresa
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 10:20 PM
Subject: Status of Schools Update

School Leaders

So much to digest this past week! Private schools did request on Monday that the Governor allow a return to in-person school before the end of the year. Then the two Governor's Press conferences. While schools were not the focal point in either of the Governor's addresses there was information pertaining to decisions around school closures and opening in the fall. According to the Governor on April 29, 2020 he stated,

"Well first off, I appreciate them thinking about the education of our youth. As you know, we made a decision to act as a state on this, to allow the perfection of our remote learning technique. So for the information we have today, we don't see that as a as an option, and that we are appreciative our educators who are being so creative maximizing our remote efforts. But right now, look we don't have the testing capability to run that risk. Right now, if we were back to school tomorrow and little Johnny had a fever and a cough that school probably have to shut down because of the demands of parents. And if he was tested then you'd just be right down in a shutdown mode. And we can't test them rapidly because we have to prioritize those tests for the people who are in hospitals. This is why I've been so diligent trying to urge the president to be more productive in getting these testing materials supplied, so in the absence of that, I don't think it probably is in the cards to open up schools right now.

The Governor followed up on Friday May 1, 2020 in response to a question with, "What we do in the next several weeks will have a large, large impact on that decision I think of Washingtonians abide by this phased approach we will both reopen our economy and we will make it much more likely that we can return to school in the fall... I think there's a good probability I would say that we will achieve those things in part because this phased approach does recognize both the economic circumstances of our state and the need not to have more fatalities and not to have children you know infected. So we have to close many, many schools. Now this is also important that we ramp up the testing capability. You'll notice that is one of our very important dials and having that turn so that is in the safe zone is extremely important for our ability to open up schools because in the event there is an infection in a school, to get enough confidence to reopen it or keep it open, we've got to have the ability to test large numbers of people to give people confidence very quickly so that testing capability is fundamental to not only are open reopening our businesses but reopening our schools. Well I think there's a very good chance schools will reopen in the fall and I'm very hopeful that is the case.

As you can see, it is unlikely that schools will have any window of opportunity to open even for graduation ceremonies. I know many of you have already been working on alternative plans to recognize and celebrate our graduates. I am hopeful that we will receive a response from the Governor's office, which I will share with you.

The Governor continues to encourage the public, "As we turn the dial and re-enter public life, we've got to be vigilant on the things that we do as individuals to keep us safe:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Try not to touch your face.
- Stay at least six feet away from other people.
- Wear cloth face coverings in public places when within six feet of another person.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Disinfect surfaces and objects regularly.

The Department of Health offers [guidelines](#) as well for keeping children and teachers safe at school. These guidelines can serve as a framework for programs to develop their own policies and best practices. It is suggested that schools create clear expectations and policies around safety for parents to agreement to before starting back.

PESB Extends Certifications for One Year

The Professional Educator Standards Board has extended the validity period on certificates expiring June 30, 2020 for one additional year. **Certificates will now expire June 30, 2021.** This policy change is effective immediately. This applies to residency, professional, initial, and continuing certificates for all roles, including teacher, administrator, career and technical education (CTE), and all educational staff associate (ESA) roles.

Individuals with certificates expiring June 30, 2020 who already applied for certificate renewal will be granted the same one year extension on their renewed certificates. Individuals with permits are eligible for an additional one-year permit. **Educators do not need to take any action in order to be granted this one year extension.**

Yikes! Some of you got this email already! Not sure how I made the mistake of

hitting the “send” button before I proofed my work, but I did!!! 😞

St. Dymphna pray for us and all those who need support and understanding!

Blessings, Terri

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