



NORTHEASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Northeastern York School District Frequently Asked Questions RE: COVID -19 School Closure (3/25/20)

Q: What is the timeframe for the K-12 closure?

A: On Friday, March 13, 2020, Governor Wolf ordered that all public K-12 schools be shut down for 10 days beginning Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27, 2020.

Update 3/23/2020 Governor Wolf announced that all schools will remain closed through April 6, with students returning no sooner than April 9.

Q: Will you continue to re-evaluate the situation before the students go back to school?

A: Yes, the Governor has stated that the closures state-wide will be re-evaluated during the current closure. We, as a district, will also re-evaluate operations during that time as well. We remain in close contact with PA Dept. of Ed., PA Dept of Health, and the other districts in our Intermediate Unit (Adams, Franklin, York Counties).

Q: What about the end of the 3rd Marking Period? Is that date going to change? What about final exams?

A: **Update 3/23/2020** We have moved the end of the 3rd marking period back to March 13th - the last day we were in session. Teachers will be working to complete report cards this week and may be reaching out to remind students of missing assignments. We are aware that students have not been in school, so we want to make sure that we are providing opportunities for them to turn in their work before final grades are calculated.

Q: Will these days be made up?

A: Currently, the Governor has stated that the days missed from March 16 - 27 will not count against the state required 180 school days.

Update 3/23/2020 We have not yet received guidance about whether the days missed from March 30-April 9 will need to be made up. We will update as soon as we know more.

Q: How can I contact the school during the closure?

A. **Update 3/23/2020** Our offices and buildings are closed as a result of Governor Wolf's recommendation that only essential staff report to work. Our Central Office team and our building level administrators are working remotely. Please do not hesitate to email your building principal or central office administrator with questions. You may also email questions or concerns to ContactUs@nebocats.org or call 717-266-3667, ext. 10234 and leave a message.

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, 41 HARDING STREET, MANCHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 17345
PHONE: 717-266-3667 FAX: 717-266-5792

*The Bobcat Way: A Strategic Direction for Northeastern School District
100% of our students will graduate and be fully prepared for a post-secondary education.*

Q: Will we still have statewide assessments (PASA, PSSA, Keystone Exams) and AP Exams?

A: The PA Dept. of Education will provide guidance regarding PASA, PSSAs and Keystones which our district would follow when any changes are determined. The College Board has notified us that they are working on a plan for students enrolled in AP courses and that they will update us on March 20, 2020. We will communicate any changes to AP exams as it is communicated with our district.

Update 3/19/20: The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced today the cancellation of all PSSA testing and Keystone exams for the 2019-20 school year as a result of COVID-19. This includes the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA).

Q: Assignments were sent home with students last week, either packets, on-line, or a combination. Why are we not doing that?

A: We are currently closed as part of a statewide shut down of all Pennsylvania school districts. As such, schools are not providing instruction during this two week period. We are monitoring the situation and awaiting further guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. If the closure extends beyond the initial 10-days, we will examine our options regarding continuity of instruction for our students. The district has been approved to use up to five Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs) as part of our plan and we will continue to explore our options. It is important to note, as a district, we are responsible for equity of access to instruction for all students, including students without devices and/or access to the internet and students who require individualized programming and supports. These needs must be taken into consideration with any days that we consider "instructional days" and will be part of any planning that occurs for days missed beyond this two week period.

Q: When will we know if activities are going to be re-scheduled?

A: **Update 3/23/2020** All district activities are currently canceled through April 9, 2020. Individual buildings, programs and activities will communicate plans for events scheduled after that date; or make-up dates for those missed, as they are determined.

Q: Will graduation still be held on May 29th?

A: We are continuing to monitor and are awaiting further guidance from PDE. There are currently no plans to change graduation at this time.

Q: What are the consequences for districts/schools that don't meet the 180-day/(900/990 hours) requirements?

A: The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will not penalize districts/schools that fail to meet the minimum 180-day/hours (990/900/450) requirements as a result of COVID-19 response efforts. However, schools are encouraged to plan possible adjustments to their calendars to provide as much instruction as possible during this unprecedented event. PDE will be developing additional guidance on this critical topic and we will update as we learn more.

Q: Does the district have a plan for meal distribution to our students on free and reduced breakfast/lunch?

A. Yes, Pennsylvania received approval from the Federal government to allow schools the option to distribute meals at no cost while schools are closed. Northeastern began this program on Tuesday, March 17th. Breakfast and lunch is offered free of charge to all children 18 and under. Grab-and-Go meals are distributed at York Haven Elementary School, 360 Cassel Road, York Haven, and at Northeastern High School, 300 High Street, Manchester each day, Monday - Friday between the hours of 10:00 - 11:30.

Q: What if my income changed as a result of a layoff or business shutdown?

A. **Update 3/25/2020** The National School Lunch Program & USDA allows families to fill out NEW Free & Reduced Meal applications at any time their financial situation changes. If your situation has changed, please visit schoolcafe.com or email Kimberly Alessandroni at alessandronik@nebobcats.org

Q: Can schools keep playgrounds, basketball courts, etc. open for community use during the closure?

A: No. Pursuant to Governor Wolf's latest order, playgrounds, basketball courts and other recreational or community facilities should not be kept open.

Q: My young child is having a difficult time adjusting to not being in school. What can I do?

A: This time of uncertainty can be difficult for all of us. Children are especially vulnerable and often look to the adults in their lives for guidance and stability. Use this time to spend quality time together - read together, play games, find a fun project to complete . . . incorporating special time together and establishing routines will help them feel safe during this challenging time. If you, or your child need additional resources, please reach out to your building principal via email or call 717-266-3667, ext. 10234, and we will connect you with your child's school counselor or one of our school social workers.

Q: With schools being closed, what should I do if I have a concern about a student?

A: We understand that older students and teens may also struggle with the uncertainty of the current situation and the disruption of familiar routines. If you or your child need additional resources, please reach out to your building principal via email or call 717-266-3667, ext. 10234 and we will connect you with your child's school counselor or one of our school social workers. If you have an immediate concern about the safety or general welfare of one of our students, please contact Safe2Say at 1-844-SAF2SAY or safe2saypa.org. Our Safe2Say team of administrators will receive these calls and reach out to the family and/or other agencies to assist and support the student.

Q: What about Kindergarten Registration?

A: Kindergarten registration appointments scheduled during the closure have been canceled and will be re-scheduled. We will continue to communicate with families and will create additional registration dates once we re-open.

Q: I did not pick up my child's medication yet. If I need it, or if the closure extends beyond next Friday, how do I go about picking it up?

A: Please contact your principal via email or the administration center at ContactUs@nebocats.org. You may also leave a message at 717-266-3667, ext. 10234 and arrangements for pick up will be made with the school nurse.

Q: What about playdates and parties during the school closure?

A: It is important to remember that the goal of closing schools is to slow down the spread of the virus through social distancing. We know it is hard for all of us - we are social and we enjoy being with others - but it is important that we all do what we can to prevent the spread of this virus through our friends, family, and community. We encourage our families to follow the recommendations from the Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control to aid in these efforts.

Q: What about families without internet access?

A: **Update 3/25/2020** For any families without Internet access, please check out the resources below:

- Comcast has announced that the Internet Essentials program is now free - Visit <https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19>
- Xfinity - Offering free WiFi access during this period - Visit <https://wifi.xfinity.com>

Q: Where do I look for updated information and resources regarding COVID-19?

A: Please continue to refer to the [PA Department of Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control](#) websites for updated, accurate information about Coronavirus.