



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

March 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Governor Northam, thank you for reaching out to our offices. We appreciate your care and concern for Virginia students with disabilities during this uncertain time.

With the closure of all public and private schools through the rest of the school year, the impact on contractual arrangements with service providers through the CSA remain a matter of local jurisdiction. Today, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Office of Children's Services is issuing joint guidance on this subject. The VDOE has advised local school divisions to work with their local Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMT), local CSA office, and partnering private schools to discuss this matter. They have also provided guidance to school divisions to carefully consider the provision of equitable access, services, and support for a variety of students including students who may be served by private providers. The Office of Children's Services (OCS) has also been clear in communication that funds are able to reimburse localities for services as agreed to by the local CSA program, local school division, and private providers. No guidance from VDOE or OCS has been issued that would serve as a barrier for providing services to students served in private settings.

As a reminder, the State Superintendent may also provide variances to the school closure mandate on a case-by-case basis in very limited circumstances. Any request for a school to reopen should include at a minimum the following information: (1) Name of program or facility making the request; (2) Size of the student population it serves; (3) Types of services being provided; (4) Reason for request; and (5) Size of staff needed to remain open if you are a school seeking a variance. Please submit your request in writing to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at Superintendent@doe.virginia.gov.

Thank you again for your commitment to Virginia students during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Atif Qarni in black ink.

Atif Qarni
Secretary of Education

Handwritten signature of Daniel Carey in black ink.

Dr. Daniel Carey
Secretary of Health and Human Resources