



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Joint Guidance for Student Placements Reimbursed by the Children's Services Act
Virginia Department of Education and the Office of Children's Services
March 30, 2020

On March 23rd, Governor Ralph Northam ordered all K-12 schools in Virginia to close for the remainder of the academic year as a response to the continued spread of COVID-19. Under the Governor's order, private day schools are required to be closed. The impact of the state of emergency on contractual arrangements with service providers through the CSA remain a matter of local jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Education (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. The VDOE has 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. There is no issued guidance from VDOE or OCS that would serve as a barrier for providing services to students served in private settings.

The State Superintendent may provide variances to the school closure mandate on a case by case basis in very limited circumstances. Any request 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.

For information and updates related to the closure of public schools, please visit the VDOE web page [COVID-19 and Virginia Public Schools](#). If you have further questions, please see the Virginia Department of Education's list of [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#). Please consult the [Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\)](#) website for the most up to date and reliable information about COVID-19 in the Commonwealth.