Connecticut State Department of Education COVID-19 Guidance Related to School Closure and 180 Days

March 9, 2020 – This Guidance may be updated in conjunction with CDC and DPH recommendations, and rapidly changing circumstances.

Superintendent/local determines closure appropriate

in consultation with and at the recommendation of the local health officials.
State DPH and SDE will be prepared to support decision making.

Short Term ClosureUp to 2 weeks

No Distance Learning in Lieu of Onsite Schooling

Close school outright if necessary. This avoids inequities, staff contractual issues, special education access, etc.

SDE Recommended

Distance Learning

Distance learning effectively employed, accessible, LEA accepts risk, considers staff contractual issues, special education access, etc.

LEA Determines Locally

Longer Term
Closure and/or
State and Federal
Orders

Case-by-Case Guidance

Use superintendents' only email.

School year extended as needed through vacations and/or June 30

= No waiver necessary if meets 180 days, or submit waiver if less than 180 days

May provide supplemental programming.

LEA certifies compliance with state and federal law through distance learning, assumption of risk, given unique circumstances of COVID-19

= SDE recommends waiver

COVID-19 waiver template must be submitted.*

*Consideration of distance learning related to a waiver of onsite school days is limited to the present circumstances of the current COVID-19 concerns for the 2019-2020 school year.