



TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Administrators
Nonpublic School Administrators
Charter School Administrators

From: Shannon Tahoe, Interim Commissioner

Date: April 20, 2020

Re: Updated Guidance on Driver and Traffic Safety Education in Response to COVID-19

Updated Guidance on Driver and Traffic Safety Education in Response to COVID-19

On March 25, 2020 the Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE) issued guidance with respect to Driver and Traffic Safety Education (DTSE) courses affected by school closures due to the COVID-19 emergency. The office subsequently received questions from the field seeking clarification on the guidance. The office received several emails asking whether students enrolled in driver's education courses in the spring 2020 semester could finish classroom instruction along with their laboratory instruction during the summer 2020 session or the fall 2020 semester.

On April 16, 2020 Governor Cuomo extended school closures in New York State until May 15, 2020. At this time, it is unknown whether schools will remain closed for the remainder of the year or what other safety measures the Governor may take in response to the COVID-19 emergency. Schools should continue to operate on the assumption that classes will resume on May 18, 2020. Schools will be expected to make up any outstanding classroom instruction following students' return to school. As required by NYS DTSE Guidelines, schools should consult their DTSE course make-up session policies for further assistance to ensure the required 24 hours of classroom instruction are completed on time. However, in the event it becomes impracticable for schools to complete classroom instruction during the school year as a result of statewide school closures, schools may allow students enrolled in driver's education courses in the spring 2020 semester to finish their classroom instruction, along with their laboratory instruction, during the summer 2020 session or the fall 2020 semester.

As noted in our previous guidance document, whether a school chooses to utilize this recommendation is a local decision, and NYSED strongly urges schools to consult with their local counsel before making any decisions. Additional questions or concerns should be directed to EMSCDRVED@nysed.gov.