



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 Appearance Enhancement Programs in Response to COVID-19

Background

On March 16, 2020 Governor Cuomo signed an executive order directing all schools in New York State to close by March 18 and has continued that order until May 15, 2020 in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency. The Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE) has received many questions from school districts regarding appearance enhancement and barbering programs. In order to address current state-wide school closures and the possibility of extended school closures, the Office of CTE is putting forth the following guidance with respect to these programs.

Recommendations for Schools

All students in appearance enhancement programs (nail specialty, waxing, natural hair styling, esthetics or cosmetology) must complete the required course content and hours specified for their content area consistent with 19 NYCRR part 162 (Appearance Enhancement Curriculum): Section 162.1 Nail specialty; Section 162.2 Esthetics; Section 162.3 Natural hair styling; Section 162.4 Cosmetology; Section 162.5 Waxing; and Section 162.6 Nail Specialist Trainee. All students in barbering programs must complete the required course content and hours consistent with guidance for NYSED-approved programs¹.

Due to COVID-19 school closures, appearance enhancement and barbering instruction may be administered through a distance learning medium if instructors can verify and record students' completion of the required course content and hours. Schools must ensure that students are provided all required units and topics necessary for the completion of the course and preparation for New York State licensing exams.

Questions related to this guidance can be forwarded to the Department's Career and Technical Education mailbox at emsccte@nysed.gov.

¹ <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/tradeandtech/Cosmetology/cosoccup.html>