

Best Practices for Continuity of Instruction – Guidance # 6

School Counselors

Staff in this category may use online platforms and email with students and parents to provide Guidance services that support students' academic progress and social-emotional needs of the children and families. It is strongly recommended that school counselors interact with students, parents, and colleagues within the contractual workday.

School counselors are now, as always, committed to students, families and the work. Supporting staff, students and families remotely may not be easy at first, but keep in mind that the support you provide is invaluable. These are challenging times for students, as they are faced with new learning platforms, missing their classmates and friends as well as a new daily routine. Our learning community needs reassurance that school counselors are available and ready to help in this new remote environment.

During communication with families, the situation presented may require the services of community health and social services partners. The District Guidance Department collaborates with local agencies and will help school counselors in reaching out to them for assistance. As we continue to expand our Electronic Learning skills additional resources will be available. **In addition to Guidance #1 and #4, school counselors' responsibilities may include:**

School Counselor Responsibilities

To the extent possible, the School Counselors will engage in their routine responsibilities as guided by their caseload, maintain records of all communications and regularly follow up with administration:

Immediate

- Conduct outreach to students and families who may be in need of additional supports in Electronic Learning as well as resources to essential services (e.g., food, shelter, social services);
- Communicate with administration and staff in regard to student and family outreach and Electronic Learning attendance concerns and support students and families to be fully engaged in learning;
- Conduct outreach and support students in need of counseling services during this time of uncertainty; and
- Inform administration about students in need of outside mental health services.

Ongoing

Support students with college and career planning. This includes, but not limited to:

- Contact students in need of counseling services;
 - Work with school teams to ensure students are meeting their timeline towards graduation (e.g., assistance with reviewing transcripts);
 - Provide guidance on registration and/or scheduling of ACT/SAT/AP examinations; inform students of cancellations and rescheduling of exams;
 - Assist students and families with evaluating financial packages and supporting them with securing scholarship opportunities, and;
 - Remind students to continue their Smart Scholar, PTech, Gear Up and College Link assignments.
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Assessments Update

NYSED Testing

New York State Education Department has suspended all **elementary-and-intermediate-level** assessments for the remainder of the school year in response to COVID-19 related school closures. This includes:

- New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests
- New York State Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests
- New York State Grade 4 Elementary-Level Science Test
- New York State Grade 8 Intermediate-Level Science Test
- New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in Grades K-12
- New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for Students with Disabilities who qualify in Grades 3-8 and high school

In addition, NYSED has applied for federal waivers for testing, accountability, and reporting requirements. As of now, NYSED has not suspended the June Regents.

SAT Update

March and May SAT Administrations

- College Board is canceling the May 2, 2020 SAT and SAT Subject Test administration. Makeup exams for the March 14 administration (scheduled for March 28) are also canceled.
- Students who already registered for May, whose March test centers were closed, or who do not receive March scores because of any irregularities will receive refunds.
- In the coming days, College Board will share additional information and details directly with registered students and test centers.

Future Testing Opportunities

- College Board will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as possible in place of canceled administrations.
- College Board has not yet canceled the June 6, 2020 SAT and SAT Subject Test administration and will continue to assess its status, with the health and safety of students and educators as the top priority. They are also exploring the possibility of adding an international SAT administration later this school year.
- The March 25 SAT School Day administration is postponed. College Board is working with local partners, and will soon share further information about weekday school-based SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 administrations scheduled for this spring.

Resources and Support

- To help students maintain their college readiness skills when many schools are closed, College Board and Khan Academy will continue to provide free resources online, including full-length practice tests and personalized learning tools.

Educators Email: sateducator@collegeboard.org Phone: 212-520-8600

Students Email: sat@info.collegeboard.org Phone: 866-756-7346

Updated Customer Service Hours 9 a.m.—6 p.m. Monday—Friday.

Advanced Placement (AP) Updates from the College Board

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>

- Traditional face-to-face exam administration will not take place this year.
- For the 2019-2020 school year only, students can take a 45 minute online exam at home. The exam will only include content already covered in class by early March.
- Students will be able to take these streamlined exams on any device – computer, tablet or smartphone. Taking a photo of handwritten work will also be an option. If a student does not have access to one of those devices, College Board will work with a partner to assist the student. There is a link requesting student information on the website.
- The due date has been extended to May 26, 2020 for the student portfolio for the Art and Design, Research and Seminar subjects. There are changes to the portfolio content listed on the website. Updates for the other subject areas will be available on April 3, 2020.
- Some students may want to take the exam sooner while the content is fresh in their memory while others may want more time to practice so there will be 2 different testing dates. Information will be available by April 3, 2020.
- College Board will unlock any relevant free-response questions in AP classrooms for digital use to allow for student access to practice questions.
- Beginning March 25th, students and teachers can attend free, live AP review courses. The courses will also be recorded and available on-demand. The focus will be on skills and concepts from the first 75% of the course and supplementary lessons covering the final 25% of the course.
- Teachers are able to access the free-response questions now and can assign them digitally to students.
- Teachers can access Foundations, AP Classroom Demo and AP Quick Start Videos from the link above to help them set up an AP classroom.

Contact information for AP Services for Educators: apexams@info.collegeboard.org; 1-877-274-6474 or 212-632-1781.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Statement on May 2020 regarding Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme examinations

The IB will be taking the following actions for the 2020 May Examination session:

- The May 2020 examinations as scheduled between 30 April and 22 May for Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme candidates will no longer be held.
- Depending on what they registered for, the student will be awarded a Diploma or a Course Certificate which reflects their standard of work. This is based on student's coursework and the established assessment expertise, rigor and quality control already built into the programmes.

These FAQs provide information about key topics such as assessment deadlines and school authorization. If you are part of an IB World school faculty and require further support, please contact support@ibo.org. In addition, contact support@ibo.org to inform them of school closure due to COVID-19.

District Guidance team is just a phone call 376-8454 or email away, eshine@yonkerspublicschools.org . Keep in touch and let us know what information you need to assist our students and families. New resources will be provided. Please share documents/materials that are helpful to your work that can be posted and offered to colleagues and/or parents. Together, we will continue to do our best to seek answers and look for solutions.