*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | March 27, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Update on COVID-19 Action Steps to Support Schools, Students, and Families |

Throughout the initial weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have prioritized the health, safety, and wellness of students, families, educators, and staff. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has provided support to our schools and districts in several ways and communicated via conference calls to provide information and policy guidance in response to a situation that continues to evolve, often on a daily basis.

During the closure, schools across the Commonwealth have been operating with a range of remote learning models. Superintendents, principals, educators, other school staff, and families are working hard to support students during these difficult times and are responding to challenging conditions with remarkable care, flexibility, and creativity.

I have attached a few of the key guidance documents that we have provided to the field and posted on the Department’s COVID-19 Information and Resources [website](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/emergencyplan/covid19.html), including [Remote Learning Recommendations During COVID-19 School Closures (](http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/2020-0326remote-learning.docx)published on March 26, 2020). At our meeting on March 31, I will review the guidance we have provided to date, update you on new information, and answer any questions you may have. Senior Associate Commissioner Russell Johnston has been leading the effort to ensure that our special education students are well served, and he will provide an update on that work and be available to answer your questions.

Attachments: On the Desktop: Remote Learning Recommendations During COVID-19 School Closures

 Executive Order

 On the Desktop: School District Payments to Hourly Employees

 On the Desktop: Payments for Contracted Services

 On the Desktop: Professional Licensure Extensions