

Transportation Aid During Pandemic

WHEREAS school buildings in New York State were closed beginning on March 18, 2020 under Executive Order 202.4 related to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, and the closures were extended through subsequent short-term Executive Orders through the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS Education Law authorizes State reimbursement for a share of the approved costs incurred in transporting students to and from school; and

WHEREAS the federal CARES Act provides that aid recipients under the Education Stabilization Fund "...shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to the Coronavirus."; and

WHEREAS public school districts in New York State continued to pay to keep transportation vendors and employees on standby to resume duties when school buildings reopened and to ensure the infrastructure was maintained to have transportation services available when in-person education would resume; and

WHEREAS school districts incurred transportation costs related to delivery of school meals, homework packets, devices and wi-fi access for remote learning during the period when school buildings were closed; and

WHEREAS NYS Education Law does not authorize the State to reimburse transportation-related costs without the physical presence of students travelling to and from school buildings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon School District calls upon New York State leaders to take immediate action to amend Education Law to ensure the reimbursement of transportation aid for school district costs related to transportation infrastructure, delivery of materials, or keeping vendors or employees on standby for the duration of the declared COVID-19 state of emergency.

The Board of Education directs the District Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the following people:

- Sandra Galef, State Assembly Member
- Peter Harckham, State Senator
- Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York
- Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly
- Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
- Michael Benedetto, State Assemblyman, Chair, Committee on Education

- Shelley Mayer, State Senate, Chair, Committee on Education
- Dr. Howard A. Zucker, Commissioner of Health
- Betty Rosa, NYS Interim Commissioner of Education
- Andrew Brown, Vice-Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents
- Frances Wills, NYS Board of Regents
- Karen Belanger, Executive Director, Westchester Putnam School Boards Association

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DATE: 11/19/2020