
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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COVID-19 — GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONS — JULY 17, 2020

Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, June 17, 2020

Governor Reynolds proclaimed a State of Disaster Emergency on March 9, 2020, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 following a national public health emergency declaration issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services on January 31, 2020, and multiple individuals within the State of Iowa testing presumptive positive for COVID-19. The Governor issued an additional Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 13, 2020, establishing a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency.

On July 17, 2020, the Governor issued an additional [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency](#), which ordered the following measures:

- All State agencies, school districts, and other local government bodies and agencies are to take all efforts to prepare to return students to in-person instruction for the fall 2021 semester. These efforts shall also ensure that schools have flexibility to continue providing education remotely if it becomes necessary.
- Brick-and-mortar school districts and accredited nonpublic schools are to provide instruction primarily through remote-learning opportunities in the following circumstances:
 - If a parent or guardian voluntarily selects the remote-learning opportunity from among multiple options provided by the school district or nonpublic school in accordance with its Return-to-Learn Plan,
 - If the Iowa Department of Education, in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), approves of the temporary move to primarily remote learning for an entire school building or district because of public health conditions in the building or district,
 - If the school district or accredited nonpublic school determines, in consultation with State and local public health departments, that individual students or classrooms, but not all the students in a public school building, must temporarily move to primarily remote learning because of public health conditions in the building,
 - If the school district or accredited nonpublic school determines that an entire school building or district must temporarily move to primarily remote learning because of inclement weather for a period not exceeding five consecutive school days, unless the IDPH approves of a longer period.
- Regulatory provisions of the Iowa Administrative Code limiting the number of consecutive days and the total number of days in a 30-day period that a person may serve as a substitute teacher during one job assignment are temporarily suspended.
- Regulatory provisions of the Iowa Administrative Code requiring a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution to be issued a substitute authorization, but only to the extent that the application instead has achieved an associate's degree or completed 60 semester hours of college coursework from a regionally accredited institution are temporarily suspended.
- Regulatory provisions of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code requiring an applicant for a teaching license to be at least 21 years of age are temporarily suspended so that individuals who are at least 20 years of age may apply.
- Regulatory provisions of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code limiting the holder of a paraeducator certificate with a substitute authorization appearing on the certificate to substituting only in the special education classroom in which the paraeducator is employed are temporarily suspended. For the duration of the public health disaster proclamation, a paraeducator who holds or

obtains a substitute authorization on a paraeducator certificate may substitute any classroom, except for driver's education.

- Regulatory provisions of the Iowa Administrative Code prohibiting the holder of a career and technical secondary authorization in an initial career and technical secondary authorization who has completed at least one year of teaching experience employed by a school district from serving as a substitute teacher in any classroom without further authorization from the Board of Educational Examiners are temporarily suspended except those provisions prohibiting a career and technical secondary authorization from teaching driver's education.
- The Board of Educational Examiners is directed to provide guidance to school districts and individuals interested in serving as a substitute teacher in response to the above temporary Code suspensions.
- Regulatory provisions of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code providing a maximum teaching load for community college instructors are temporarily suspended with the requirement that a community college administration assigning an instructor a teaching load above the maximum credit load maintains written documentation that the instructor and administration mutually consented to the additional assignments.

For additional information regarding the Proclamation of a State Disaster Emergency, see the LSA [Legal Background Briefing](#).

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