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STATE OF COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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Office of the Attorney General

September 11, 2020

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Records Request

Via email to records@americanoversight.org

Dear Mr. Evers:

We received your records request seeking the following:

All email communications (including email messages, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, or calendar attachments) sent or received by Assistant Attorney General Joseph “Joe” Peters [from August 3, 2020, through August 5, 2020] containing any of the following key terms:

- i. Kanye
- ii. West
- iii. “Birthday Party”
- iv. info@kanye2020.country
- v. “Rachel George”
- vi. “RBG Communications”
- vii. “Gregg Keller”
- viii. Jacobson
- ix. “Adam Johnson”
- x. Zielinski
- xi. Elector
- xii. Petition
- xiii. Ballot
- xiv. Signature
- xv. Candidate

We have included responsive public records with this letter. We have withheld public records under C.R.S. § 24-72-204(3)(a)(IV).

Under C.R.S. § 24-72-205, we are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable costs associated with copying expenses and for staff time. Your request resulted in a charge of \$42 for staff time. Thank you for your payment.

Sincerely,

FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Pacheco", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LAWRENCE PACHECO
Director of Communications

From: [National Council of State Education Attorneys](#) on behalf of [Korte, Daron \(MDE\)](#)
To: NCOSEA@LSV.UKY.EDU
Subject: [NCOSEA:] Job Opening
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:56:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: External Sender

Good morning,

The Minnesota Department of Education is hiring a Director of Special Education Compliance and Assistance. This position oversees IDEA program and fiscal monitoring and due process, as well as several other legal tasks. The position has traditionally been filled by an attorney, and while a MN law license is a preferred qualification, it is a requirement. See below for a job summary and instructions on how to apply. Please feel free to share with anyone you think might be interested in joining our team in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Thanks!

In this position you will lead and direct the Minnesota Department Education's (MDE) Compliance and Assistance Program in its commitment to helping all learners, parents, and school districts so that equitable educational opportunities are available, and to ensure equity and legal compliance in program functions. You will manage the execution of federally and state mandated monitoring activities of both program and fiscal special education, the special complaint process, student maltreatment, mediation and facilitated team meetings, and the special education administrative hearing process. In addition, you will oversee the Method of Assurance Program and additional activities relating to nondiscrimination. You will manage and develop services necessary to support legislative activities and recommendations for policy changes resulting from new initiatives and rulemaking to assure that the department achieves its goals by making informed decisions, policies, and procedures that are legally defensible. You will collaborate with the Director of Statewide Assessment on the development of security of testing data and security protocols. You will collaborate with the Director of Special Education on needed policy development and ongoing training and communication activities with external special education stakeholders.

Job Opening ID: 39757

Director of the Compliance and Assistance Division - State Prog Admin Manager Prin

1. For more information about this job opening go to <http://www.mn.gov/careers> or to Self Service if you are a current State of Minnesota employee.
2. On the Job Search page enter the Job Opening ID number in the Keywords search box and click Search.
3. Click on the Job Title to view the job posting.
4. If interested, click Apply.

Daron Korte, J.D.

Assistant Commissioner

Office of Student Health and Well-being

651-582-8215 | daron.korte@state.mn.us

(he, him, his)

Minnesota Department of Education

1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113
education.mn.gov

Minnesota Department of Education



From: [DOL Connect](#)
To: [Everybody](#)
Subject: CountIt Technical Issues Resolved and NEW July Bonus Challenge
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:47:17 AM
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)

Happy August, DOL!

I would say congrats to our July CountIt winner, but – as many of you know – we experienced technical issues with the CountIt website over the weekend because we are having a second August competition, and the system was not quite prepared for such EXUBERANCE. Ruh roh! ☹️

We have been busy behind the scenes working with the CountIt folks to get up-and-running, and everything should be working again. However, because none of us could enter that last marathon we ran on Friday, July 31, we need some extra time to do so. Therefore, please take a few extra days, until Wednesday, August 5, to enter data for July.

Please let me or your Team Captains know if you are unable to enter data for July today. It is our understanding that the completion of the July competition and the commencement of the August competition should be seamless, meaning there will be no need to create new accounts, re-enter old data that existed before the weekend, etc.

AND, because of the technical issues, we have added a BONUS CHALLENGE. Please submit a photo of yourself or your family engaging in a CountIt activity to the [DOL Photo Bank](#) (to the new “CountIt Activities” folder) and then manually award yourself 100 bonus points for July 31.

And, obviously, pets that engage in hiking with you count as family and so count for photos (huzzah!). Please enjoy this action shot of the love of my life, Zeus the ThunderPug, scaling a hill and surveying our domain in the Sangre de Cristos last weekend!

A close up of a tree? ? Description automatically generated



Happy Stepping from Your DOL Connect Members!





Brenna K. Finn
Assistant Attorney General
Colorado Department of Law
Business & Licensing Section, Agriculture Unit
Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center
1300 Broadway, 8th Floor
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 720-508-6366
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This message may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information and is intended only for the individual(s) named. Any name or signature block is not a legally binding electronic signature. If you are not an intended recipient you are not authorized to disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system.

From: [Department of Law](#)
To: Joe.Peters@coag.gov
Subject: DOL News - News clippings: 8-3-20
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 5:13:18 PM



News clippings: 8-3-20 has been added



Emily Wenger

8/3/2020 5:09 PM

Title: News clippings: 8-3-20

Body: [Attorney General](#)

[Letters for Elijah McClain aims to mail 10,000 postcards to Colorado officials](#)

The Culture Chronicle

August 2, 2020

The grassroots campaign, Justice For Elijah recently launched campaign to demand justice for the 23 year old young man, killed by police officers and paramedics in Aurora, Colorado last year.

....

Supporters can visit [Culture Greetings](#), a black and female-owned digital-to-print greeting card company, and select a [greeting card](#) or [postcard](#) designed by Chloe Zola to send to Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Attorney General Phil Weiser, Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman, or City Attorney Daniel L. Brotzman.

[Colorado takes a giant step toward police reform](#)

People's World

August 3, 2020

Colorado became the first state since the police murder of George Floyd and mass uprising to lift the qualified immunity of police officers. That measure is part of a broad police accountability and reform legislation restricting the use of force by officers and banning chokeholds, [signed](#) into law by Governor Jared Polis (D) on June 19.

...

A [petition](#) to reopen the case has garnered nearly five million signatures. On June 24, Governor Jared Polis appointed Attorney General Phil Weiser to re-examine the case.

[Did officials ignore the obvious in Elijah McClain's Death?](#)

Westword

August 3, 2020

Before the protests, before the violin solos and the demands for justice and the chants urging people to say his name, Elijah McClain was not a symbol, but a young man in his prime, a 23-year-old musician and massage therapist, a vegetarian and free spirit, just trying to get home.

....

But now Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser is reviewing Young's investigation, with an eye toward possible criminal charges that might be filed in McClain's death.

Business and Licensing

[Upcoming Colorado evictions: The sky is not falling](#)

Colorado Real Estate Journal

August 3, 2020

With millions of dollars in federal COVID-19 relief grant funds at stake and widespread unease about the economic impact of virus-related restrictions, political profiteers, clever enough to form a nonprofit corporation or law firm claiming to represent tenants, are pushing a false narrative that there is a so-called eviction crisis.

[Denver's decade-long rent growth ends in second quarter](#)

Colorado Real Estate Journal

August 3, 2020

For the first time in more than a decade, the Denver apartment market saw declining year-over-year rent growth, according to the Apartment Association of Metro Denver's quarterly Denver Metro Area Apartment Vacancy and Rent Survey.

[Colorado Springs home prices continue to soar as pandemic can't slow housing market](#)

The Gazette

August 2, 2020

Not even the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has derailed the Pikes Peak region's robust housing market.

[Paid family sick leave initiative a step closer to Colorado ballot](#)

The Durango Herald

August 1, 2020

A liberal coalition says it has collected more than enough voter signatures to get a paid family leave initiative onto Colorado's November ballot.

[Tucson-based retailer cuts ties with 3 Colorado stores amid abuse case](#)

Associated Press

August 1, 2020

A vintage clothing retailer based in Tucson, Ariz. has cut ties with three of its Colorado stores after dozens of anonymous allegations of employee abuse surfaced on social media this week.

Consumer Protection

[Teens in Colorado Keep Vaping At A High Rate, But More Perceive Risk, Survey](#)

[Finds](#)

CPR News

August 3, 2020

Colorado's sky-high teen vaping rates haven't budged in the past couple of years, but many more high schoolers do see the habit as risky, according to new data released Monday by the state health department.

Criminal Justice

[Police Apologize Girls Handcuffed in Stolen Car Mix-up](#)

U.S. News

August 3, 2020

Police in suburban Denver apologized after a group of Black girls were detained, and at least two handcuffed during a weekend investigation of a stolen car. Officers later determined that the vehicle they were seeking had the same license plate number but was from out-of-state.

[Gov. Polis receives thousands of request for deeper Elijah McClain investigation](#)

FOX31 Denver

August 3, 2020

Some 200,000 requests for justice for Elijah McClain poured into Governor Jared Polis' office in the last two months.

Natural Resources and Environment

['Wild Animals Belong In The Wild': Woman Caught With Wild Fox In Colorado Springs](#)

CBS Denver

August 2, 2020

A woman in Colorado Springs found herself in hot water with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife after they realized she had a wild red fox as a pet. Officers confiscated the animal on Friday.

[Drilling Down: Colorado oil company plans Permian Basin push](#)

Houston Chronicle

August 3, 2020

Colorado oil company QEP Resources is breaking a six-month hiatus as it plans to make a return to the Permian Basin of West Texas.

[Judge upholds Colorado air quality rules for oil, gas sites](#)

KOAA

August 1, 2020

A Denver district judge has dismissed a lawsuit by Weld County challenging new state regulations designed to cut oil and gas industry emissions.

Revenue and Utilities

[States Pull back on Pension Payments as Virus Ravages Revenue](#)

Advisor Perspectives

August 3, 2020

Colorado and South Carolina have pulled back from making additional payments to their underfunded pensions, moves that may play out in other states that are struggling to balance budgets as the coronavirus ravages tax revenue.

[Colorado could allow higher gambling limits as early 2021](#)

CalvinAyre.com

August 3, 2020

In many regards, Colorado is a trendsetter. It is often more willing to introduce changes that other states may consider controversial, and with good results. The gaming scene in the state has performed well over the years and, as it introduced sports gambling, Colorado immediately proved how lucrative the activity could be in a very short amount of time.

[Gambling Measure Gathers Residents' Signatures in Colorado](#)

Gambling News

August 2, 2020

Supporters of a new measure regarding casinos in **Colorado** [started a signature gathering initiative](#) last week. As per active law, if casinos want to introduce new games and raise the stake limit, all residents of the state must approve.

[Broncos Legend Rod Smith Getting in on Colorado Sports Betting Game](#)

Westword

August 3, 2020

Rod Smith, the Super Bowl-winning former wide receiver for the Denver Broncos, is getting in on the sports betting game: He's now chief brand ambassador with [Denver Sports Betting](#), a local sports betting analysis website.

State Services

[Colorado to declare racism a public health crisis after push by agency staffers to respond to protests, pandemic](#)

The Denver Post

August 2, 2020

Colorado will declare racism a public health crisis following a push by staffers inside the state's health department to respond to ongoing social-justice protests and the inequities highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic.

[Federal payments don't come close to covering Colorado hospitals' COVID-19 losses](#)

The Denver Post

August 3, 2020

Most Colorado health care providers received less than \$4,000 in federal funds meant to partly offset their losses due to COVID-19, and even the winners who got far more say the payments haven't come close to filling their revenue gaps.

[Colorado kindergarten vaccinations were up pre-pandemic, but officials worry for coming year](#)

Greeley Tribune

August 1, 2020

More kindergarteners in Colorado were vaccinated against measles and other contagious diseases during the school year that ended in June, but state officials are worried that progress could reverse as the pandemic continues.

[Parent protesters urge full reopening of Douglas County schools](#)

Colorado Politics

August 2, 2020

Parents rallied in Castle Rock on Friday, calling for Douglas County schools to fully reopen this school year, a week after [the county school district announced](#) it would operate on a "hybrid" model alternating between online and in-person learning to start the 2020-21 school year.

[Wealthy Colorado parents are hiring teachers for private learning pods, leaving low-income students behind](#)

The Colorado Sun

August 3, 2020

Coronavirus shutdowns and delays have created so many unknowns for Colorado parents with school-age kids just weeks before most classes are slated to start that some are creating their own certainties by starting "pods" of like-minded families and hiring private teachers.

Expires:

Category: News Clipping

[Modify my alert settings](#) | [View DOL News](#)

From: [Department of Law](#)
To: Joe.Peters@coag.gov
Subject: DOL News - News clippings: 8-4-20
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:28:12 PM



News clippings: 8-4-20 has been added



Emily Wenger

8/4/2020 5:23 PM

Title: News clippings: 8-4-20

Body:

Attorney General

[Colorado's attorney general has sent 34 cease-and-desist letters cracking down on coronavirus spread](#)

Colorado Sun

Aug. 4, 2020

Colorado's attorney general fired off two more coronavirus-related cease-and-desist letters this week, this time aiming to stomp out plans for upcoming concerts at a Weld County horse-racing center. The latest letters — the 33th and 34th cease-and-desist letters sent by Attorney General Phil Weiser during the pandemic to enforce Gov. Jared Polis' executive orders — are targeting Adixion Music in Denver and Imperial Horse Racing Facility. The company has reportedly been hosting large events and has been selling tickets to at least two upcoming concerts, on Aug. 8 and Aug. 16, at Imperial Horse Racing Facility near Pierce.

['Everybody I Know And Hang Out With Vapes': More Colorado Teens See The Danger In Vaping. But 1 In 4 Still Do It](#)

Colorado Public Radio

Aug. 4, 2020

In the before times, pre-COVID-19, teen vaping and an outbreak of serious vaping-related lung illness looked something like Public Health Enemy No. 1. It was all over the news and the U.S. Surgeon General officially declared e-cigarettes an epidemic with young Americans. Last month, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced the state will sue JUUL over what he said were efforts by the company to use deceptive marketing to target minors. The company denies those claims.

[Aurora Taps Vanessa Wilson as Permanent Police Chief](#)

Westword

Aug. 4, 2020

Aurora has tapped Vanessa Wilson as the permanent chief of the Aurora Police Department, which has been plagued by controversy that has brought unwanted national attention to the city. "She has performed so well as interim chief," said Jim Twombly, the city manager who chose Wilson to be the permanent chief, during the August 3 Aurora City Council meeting. After significant pressure from the national media, celebrities, and the public, Governor Jared Polis asked Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser to investigate McClain's death; the feds

revealed that they have been investigating the case since last year.

Business and Licensing

[Colorado State Fair to hold events but public access will be limited due to coronavirus](#)

The Gazette

Aug. 4, 2020

The show will go on this year for The Colorado State Fair, but most festivities won't be open to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a news release from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The fair's board of authority voted to hold competitive activities Aug. 28 - Sept. 7 on the fairgrounds in Pueblo, which include hog shows, Future Farmers of America heifer wrangling shows and the ranch horse shows among other activities.

[Department of Agriculture warns of contaminated red onions](#)

The Mountain Mail

Aug. 4, 2020

The Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment are monitoring a report by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of an outbreak of Salmonella Newport in red onions that have been traced to a single provider in Bakersfield, California as the likely source.

[Thousands of Households Have Received Mysterious Seed Packages. Every State Warns Against Planting Them.](#)

Daily Yonder

August 4, 2020

All US states have issued warnings about mysterious, unsolicited packages of seeds randomly mailed to U.S. homes in the past few days. Colorado Department of Agriculture has also received "numerous" reports from across the state of people receiving packages of seeds that appear to have originated from China and other countries. The USDA said that it was working with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection to investigate the packages, according to its statement.

Consumer Protection

[Ransomware attack forces city of Lafayette to pay hackers \\$45,000](#)

9 News

Aug. 4, 2020

Multiple municipal services are down following a ransomware attack that forced the city of Lafayette to pay hackers \$45,000, according to a news release distributed Tuesday. "I can tell you that using taxpayer funds to pay a ransom was definitely not the avenue the city wanted to take," Mayor Jamie Harkins said in a video statement.

Criminal Justice

[Black women and girls ordered to ground, handcuffed in mistaken stolen-car stop](#)

NBC News

Aug. 4, 2020

Brittney Gilliam was on a girls' trip with her nieces, sister and daughter to get their nails done Sunday morning when suddenly, in a parking lot, they were surrounded by police. The officers, according to a bystander and Gilliam's lawyer, had their guns drawn, ordered the group of Black women and girls to lay face down while handcuffing some of them, police and the family said.

[Aurora, Colorado, appoints new police chief in wake of Elijah McClain case and new controversy](#)

New York Daily News

Aug. 4, 2020

The Colorado police department handling the viral and controversial case of Elijah McClain, a young unarmed Black man who died after an encounter with police last August, has been assigned a new chief. Aurora Police Department interim chief Vanessa Wilson was chosen Monday to permanently head up the department for the city, about 9 miles east of Denver, The Associated Press reported Tuesday. The 10-1 vote made Wilson the department's first female chief.

[Coronavirus reported among inmates at federal prison campus in Florence](#)

The Gazette

Aug. 4, 2020

Colorado state health officials say that two inmates transferred to a federal prison in Florence arrived with active COVID-19 infections. The new cases — along with a staff member who recently tested positive — were reported at Federal Correctional Institute Florence, which houses roughly 900 inmates under one roof and 300 more in an adjoining, minimum-security prison camp, according to the Bureau of Prisons website. It's unclear whether the inmates and staff members were in the camp or the prison. Three other employees at the facility previously tested positive for the novel coronavirus, but have since recovered, said Bureau of Prisons spokesman Justin B. Long. Those staff infections were spread "across many months," said Lauren Errico, a spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Natural Resources and Environment

[Colorado oil regulator hikes levy on oil and gas production, citing market crash](#)

Denver Business Journal

Aug. 4, 2020

The levy is the primary funding source for the 140-employee COGCC. The levy increase is seen as a burden by oil and gas well operators, but one they can accept given the collapse of crude oil prices this spring and the resulting industry struggles. Companies understand what's needed to maintain a healthy industry, and that includes having a COGCC with the funding for timely permitting and inspections, concluded Rich Coolidge, the director of regulatory affairs for the Colorado Oil and Gas Association trade group. The COGCC entered the summer looking at a \$3.8 million budget shortfall in the 2020-2021 fiscal year due to the

decline in oil prices and falling production.

[Coronavirus pandemic should have little impact on Colorado's hunting season](#)

The Aspen Times

Aug. 4, 2020

COVID-19 might be affecting nearly every corner of the Coloradan way of life, but hunting could remain insulated from the virus, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokesperson said. "Part of our challenge with predicting the pandemic is it seems things change on a day-to-day basis," CPW spokesperson Randy Hampton said. "But at this point, it does not appear there will be any impact on hunting seasons from our perspective." In fact, applications for hunting licenses actually increased compared to last year, he said.

[Great Sand Dunes manages Lightning caused Stupa Fire](#)

Alamosa News

Aug. 4, 2020

A lightning-caused fire ignited within the northern boundary of Great Sand Dunes National Park on the afternoon of Friday, July 31. The Stupa Fire is estimated at thirty acres and burning at an approximate elevation of 8,000' in grassland vegetation. The Baca Grande Subdivision Volunteer Fire Department were the first responders who arrived on location. The Volunteer Fire Department was able to control the growing fire to prevent threats to houses and spiritual buildings adjacent to the park.

[Eagle County Paramedic Services launches wildfire team to provide medical support on the front lines](#)

Vail Daily

Aug. 4, 2020

The Eagle County Paramedic Services wildland fire team, made up of six paramedics who are specially trained to respond to medical or traumatic events in the wildland environment, will be available when fires threaten the mountain region.

Revenue and Utilities

[Gambling proponents push for increased betting limits in Colorado casinos](#)

Pikes Peak Courier

Aug. 4, 2020

It's a sure bet for Colorado voters to decide if players in Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek can place bets of more than \$100, the current cap. Last week, proponents Local Choice Colorado turned in 214,000 signatures on the petition to put Initiative 257, which would allow locals in the state's gambling towns — Cripple Creek, Central City and Blackhawk — to vote on raising the state's \$100 betting limit or adding more games, such as Keno. The state requires only 124,632 signatures from registered voters, but the group got more than needed, according to Colorado Politics. An increase in betting limits would correlate with an increase in revenue. The initiative proposes that the increased tax collection go to support local community colleges.

State Services

[Broncos participate in voter education session with Colorado Secretary of State's office, RISE to Vote](#)

Denver Broncos

Aug. 4, 2020

More than 100 Broncos players and coaches joined a virtual voter education session on Friday with RISE to Vote and the Colorado Secretary of State's office. The hour-long session focused on the importance of the right to vote and how members of the Broncos' organization could register for the upcoming election. "It does not matter the color of your skin," Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold told the Broncos. "This is your right as citizens. ... Voter suppression is systemic racism, and we cannot allow that anymore."

[Proposed Colorado ballot measure comes up short – waaay short](#)

Denver Post

Aug. 4, 2020

Advocates of a proposed Colorado ballot measure for expunging nonviolent criminal offenses only turned in 255 signatures to the Secretary of State's Office by the petition deadline Monday. They needed at least 124,632 to qualify, raising the question of why organizers submitted signatures at all. Designated representatives Stephen and Paul Ball did not return requests for comment Monday and Tuesday. The deficit made it an easy call for elections officials.

[Teachers Sign Their Wills In Public Protest Organized By Colorado Education Association](#)

CBS Denver

Aug. 4, 2020

Members of the Pikes Peak Education Association protested the return of in-person learning by signing their last will and testament in front of the El Paso County Board of Health this week. Colorado Education Association posted pictures on social media on Monday that show teachers signing their wills as fears surrounding the coronavirus pandemic remain high.

[Teachers rally in Colorado and nationwide on day of action](#)

Denver Post

Aug. 4, 2020

Educators in several cities rallied Monday during a national day of action to call attention to their concerns about reopening schools as coronavirus cases continue to rise in many parts of the country. Though educators have held protests in recent weeks, Monday's event marked the first unified show of force as teachers and their unions continue to play an increasingly vocal role in the debate over when and how schools should reopen.

[Colorado faces shortage of substitute teachers](#)

KRDO

Aug. 4, 2020

Colorado educators are growing concerned about a lack of substitute teachers willing to work during the pandemic. New guidelines from the Colorado State Health Department require teachers to be sent home for 14 days if any student in their class tests positive. That makes having substitute teachers on hand that much more imperative.

Expires:

Category: News Clipping

[Modify my alert settings](#) | [View DOL News](#)

From: [Kurtis Morrison](#)
To: [Everybody](#)
Subject: DOL Policy - Campaign and Political Activities
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:40:04 AM
Attachments: [DOL Policy - Campaign and Political Activities 5-2020.pdf](#)

All –

As we've received a number of questions this summer on allowable political/campaign activities, we thought it would be helpful to recirculate the DOL Policy on campaign and political activities by DOL employees.

As always, whether during an election season or not, we must be extremely mindful that state resources of any kind may not be used for political or campaign activities whatsoever, and that such actions are unlawful. We've received a good number of questions on this policy and its application over the past three months, which is great. Please let your deputy, Natalie, or me know if you have questions or wish to discuss. Thank you all for your attention to this important matter.

Kurt

From: [School Business Daily](#)
To: joe.peters@coag.gov
Subject: Educators Rally On National Day Of Action On School Reopenings
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:33:07 AM

ASBO International

[View this email in a browser](#)

ASBO International Logo



August 4, 2020

Good Morning, Joe

LEADING THE NEWS

Educators Rally On National Day Of Action On School Reopenings

Educators in several cities rallied on Monday during a national day of action to call attention to their concerns about reopening schools, as coronavirus cases continue to rise in many parts of the country. The protests were the first unified show of force, as teachers and their unions play an increasingly vocal role in the reopening debate. The teachers, who painted messages on their cars and formed caravans with other school employees, want instruction conducted online until testing shows that classrooms are safe and districts hire more nurses and counselors. Teachers in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia honked their horns in car protests. Demonstrators rallied outside the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce building, and in Connecticut about 400 formed a car march that passed Governor Ned Lamont's home. "I do not want to put my students or myself in harm's way. I do not want to be an experiment," Chicago elementary school teacher Andrea Parker told reporters. The demonstrations come shortly after the nation's second-largest teachers union, the American Federation of Teachers, said it would support protests, lawsuits, and strikes over educator safety.

[Chalkbeat](#) [Reuters](#) [WGN9](#) [WPXI](#)



OPERATIONS

DeVos Urges Schools To Clear COVID Hurdles Without Special Favors

As educators prepare for an unprecedented school year, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos is urging them to offer full-time, in-person instruction for 2020-21, with no accompanying indications that major federal requirements on accountability, testing, services, and other matters will be lifted. In the first phase of the pandemic in March, DeVos quickly gave states waivers that allowed them to cancel spring exams, and let states carry over accountability data from the 2018-19 year for the 2019-20. The unprecedented disruptions to student learning amid mass school closures in the last part of the academic year probably made such decisions inevitable. Recently however, her team has made it plain to states not to expect to get those waivers again next year, despite interest expressed this summer by states like Georgia and South Carolina. "There are so many benefits to testing, and it allows for some transparency about how schools are performing and the issues we need to address, that our instinct would be to decline those waivers," Jim Blew, assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy development said last month. Nevertheless, there's room for the administration "to provide narrow, time-limited relief on a variety of topics," said Noelle Ellerson Ng, the associate executive director of AASA, the School Superintendents Association. "Just as DeVos has indicated that it is premature to issue such a waiver now, it is also premature to definitively claim there will be no need for any such flexibility within the current school year," she added.

[Education Week](#)

NYC Asserts Strict Reopening Plans For Schools

New York City students will not return to class if coronavirus infection rates surge above a 3% average, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Friday. The 3% infection rate ceiling would be based on a rolling seven-day average, he added, much stricter than the state's target of a 5% infection rate. "I want to hold that very tough, tough standard, because I want to keep us all focused on what we have to do to keep safety first," de Blasio said at a press conference. Additionally, school buildings will shutter if cases hit or surpass that benchmark after returning to in-person learning, according to a health and safety plan submitted to the state. The Mayor, along with New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza and several health leaders, also announced details Friday of the city's school reopening plan. All school community members will receive free testing, with school-based staff prioritized at testing centers and able to receive results within 24 hours. Teachers will also be encouraged to receive monthly testing. Additionally, a student or staff member showing symptoms must stay home or be sent home even before a case is confirmed by testing, and once a positive case is tested and identified everyone in the classroom, including teachers, must quarantine for 14 days after the confirmation. School in New York City is scheduled to start September 10.

Strategic



Parents Tentative As Schools Begin To Reopen Amid Coronavirus Surge

Parents in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee are among those who will be the first to navigate the new academic year as schools open up in parts of those states this week. Many school districts around the country had offered parents a choice of at least some in-person classes or remote instruction, though the uptick in COVID-19 cases in many states has prompted school districts to scrap in-person classes at least for the start of the school year, including in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Washington. Schools in Hawaii were supposed to reopen Tuesday, but the teachers union led a move to delay that until August 17.

[Washington Post](#)

MANAGEMENT & TRAINING

New Draft Ethnic Studies Curriculum Issued

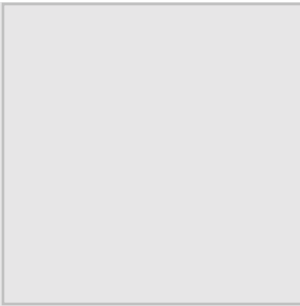
The California Department of Education has released a revised draft of an ethnic studies model curriculum, 11 months after criticism of the first draft forced state officials to order a rewrite. Its release will start eight months of review and revision, beginning with an August 13 meeting of a curriculum commission reporting to the State Board of Education, then a one-month public comment period and more review. The process will culminate in adoption by the state board in March. The extensive revision includes chapters on the background of ethnic studies, guidance to districts on how to teach it, and sample lesson plans. Gone from the new draft are a glossary full of jargon and academic language, and a section on Arab-American history with references to Israeli oppression of Palestinians. "At a time when people across the nation are calling for a fairer, more just society, we must empower and equip students and educators to have these courageous conversations in the classroom," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

[EdSource](#)

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TECHNOLOGY

Why Teachers Are Buzzing About Bitmoji Classrooms

With so many teachers having to plan for remote learning in the fall, many are creating virtual Bitmoji classrooms for their students, featuring avatar versions of themselves. Using the Bitmoji app to create their avatars, and other tools like Google or Canva to build the classroom backdrop, they're making welcoming spaces, complete with colorful rugs and posters, that can serve as a cozy home base for their classes. Students can move through the spaces virtually, clicking on a bookshelf image to get a reading assignment, for instance, or on a whiteboard to follow a link to read a science document. Erica Brooks, a special education teacher in Jefferson County, Ky., who recently gave a virtual presentation on designing Bitmoji classrooms for students with disabilities, said it's important for teachers to imagine them as places where they work with their students in real time. “You don't just make this Bitmoji classroom and say, OK, here you go,” she said in an interview. “You're in there with them, helping them find and use things in the room, and working with them on the assignments I've made for them there.” By uploading a Bitmoji classroom to a platform like Google Classroom, teachers can navigate the room, and the resources in it, with students in ways that are tailored to their needs, she said.

[Education Week](#)

Strategic



INTERNATIONAL

Super-Fast Virus Testing Programme To Be Rolled Out In U.K. Schools

U.K. Health Secretary Matt Hancock has confirmed that a new “super-fast” 90-minute

COVID-19 and flu virus testing programme will be rolled out in schools. Hancock said that the two tests were “a big step forward in terms of how quickly we’re going to be able to get tests ... We’re on track to deliver half a million tests a day by the end of October, but new technologies, like these two, will help us to accelerate that.” Ministers are considering plans for testing squads and on-the-spot testing machines to be sent into schools to perform regular checks for asymptomatic pupils and teachers with the virus, in an effort to curb local coronavirus spikes and potential school closures. The news comes as the U.K. government reiterated its commitment for all schools to fully reopen at the start of the autumn term. However, the Prime Minister’s official spokesman cautioned that “hypothetically, very specific localised lockdown measures” may require individual schools to close or delay reopening. In addition, scientists have warned that September’s schools reopening risks restarting the pandemic, unless the government’s test-and-trace system is significantly improved. A new study from the University College London (UCL) concluded that if testing and tracing is not improved then other parts of society, including pubs and restaurants, may be forced to close again in order to keep schools open. This is mainly due to the knock-on effects of schools reopening—such as parents returning to work and teaching staff interacting in staff rooms—rather than the risk of children catching and spreading the virus themselves. NAHT general secretary Paul Whiteman said that the research highlighted that most of the factors contributing to preventing a second wave were entirely outside a school’s control. He said: “The government needs to ensure that everyone knows what actions they should be taking to keep everyone safe—we’re all going to need to work together to be successful.”

[The Daily Telegraph](#) [The Daily Telegraph](#) [The Times](#)

Strategic



ASBO IN THE NEWS

Lawmakers Float School Nutrition Bills

A pair of school nutrition bills were floated in Congress last week, both of which have the support of ASBO International. House Committee on Education and Labor Chairman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA) introduced legislation to make all students eligible for free school meals during the 2020-2021 school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act would allow all children to access breakfast, lunch, and afterschool snack programs either in school or through “grab and go” and delivery options. It would also allow schools and non-profit community partners to operate meal services under the Summer Food Service Programs (SFSP) and the Summer Seamless Option (SSO), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Program or the NSLP Afterschool Snack Program, without having to certify the eligibility of each individual child. All CACFP day care homes would be eligible for reimbursement at the Tier 1 level. Separately, Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) is authoring legislation that will extend current COVID-19 waivers for school nutrition programs into the next school year. Extending these waivers to the end of the School Year

2020-2021 will allow schools to serve meals outside of the standard mealtimes and group settings, allow parent or guardians to continue picking up meals for their children, and ensure appropriate safety measures are taken while still providing meals and meal supplements, so children remain fed. “Schools across the nation are contemplating a range of scenarios as they consider how the fall and the new academic year will look,” Velázquez noted. “We need schools to have maximum flexibility as they help children continue receiving nutritious meals.”

[Education & Labor Committee](#) [AASA](#)

Strategic



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From: [School Business Daily](#)
To: joe.peters@coag.gov
Subject: Emergency Court Hearing To Stop Florida Schools Reopening
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:34:11 AM

ASBO International

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ASBO International Logo



August 5, 2020

Good Morning, Joe

LEADING THE NEWS

Emergency Court Hearing To Stop Florida Schools Reopening

The Florida Education Association will today ask a judge to intervene to stop the state's education commissioner from reopening schools for in-person learning amid the coronavirus pandemic. In mid-July, Florida's largest teachers' union sued Gov. Ron DeSantis, Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran, and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, along with the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Board of Education, alleging that the state's emergency order to reopen physical school classrooms five days a week violates the Florida Constitution, which mandates safety and security in public schools. According to the Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Courts, where the case was filed, a special hearing has been scheduled for this afternoon. As things stand, some of Florida's 67 public school districts are scheduled to begin reopening physical locations as early as August 10.

[Bay News 9](#) [Click Orlando](#) [WTSP](#)

Strategic



OPERATIONS

Virus Is Largest Disruption To Education In History, UN Says

The coronavirus pandemic has created the largest disruption to education in history, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday. With schools now closed in more than 160 countries, over 1 billion students are already impacted. The UN leader also warned that at least 40 million children worldwide have missed out on education in “critical” preschool years. “We are at a defining moment for the world’s children and young people. The decisions that governments and partners take now will have lasting impact on hundreds of millions of young people, and on the development prospects of countries for decades to come,” Guterres said in a video message and a 26-page policy briefing.

[New York Times](#) [US News and World Report](#)

Abbott Issues School Reopening Clarity

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has moved to try and clear up confusion over the state’s school reopening policy, asserting that local health authorities can shut down schools if there’s evidence of an outbreak after students return to campus, but not “weeks” before schools open. Abbott also confirmed that school districts can apply for waivers to keep their buildings closed beyond the state’s eight-week maximum if they believe they need one. “Local health authorities play an important role in school closure determinations during the course of a school year if it is determined that a contamination has occurred necessitating closure, but local health authorities do not have the power to issue pre-emptive, blanket closures of schools weeks or months in advance of when a school may open its doors to students,” the statement reads. “The TEA is committed to providing necessary < /span> flexibility for school districts to ensure schools are able to educate students while maintaining the health and safety of all students, teachers, staff, and families,” said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath in a separate statement.

[Chron](#) [The Texas Tribune](#) [Corpus Christi Caller Times](#)

Strategic



School Officials Consider Bringing Only Youngest Students Back To Classrooms

Rockford Public Schools in Illinois is one of a small number of districts across the U.S. bringing back only its youngest students on a five-day-week basis, with middle and high schoolers coming into buildings two days a week. Reasons to prioritize younger students include them being least able to learn independently, as well as the apparently lower chances of them transmitting the coronavirus, or of getting seriously ill from COVID-19. Other districts are planning to start the year remotely but plan to bring back younger students first, or have younger students eventually return for more time each week, including Chicago Public Schools, Palm Beach County, Florida; Jefferson County, Colorado; Kansas City, Missouri; New Orleans; and the Uncommon Schools charter network. In Rockford, Principal Aimee Kasper hopes that by offering in-person instruction, teachers at her school, where 91 % of students come from low-income families, can reconnect with the dozens of students who did not turn in any work and did not respond to phone calls or home visits since school buildings closed in mid-March. "We don't know if they're OK, and that worries us," she said.

[Chalkbeat](#)

Districts' Reopening Plans Examined

Sarah McCann, project manager at the Center on Reinventing Public Education, outlines research into 86 U.S. school districts' remote learning plans for the 2020-21 school year. The analysis indicates plenty of "promise," she says, with districts commonly committing to offer more live instruction and improved consistency, however there appears to be little communication detailing "check-ins, supports for younger students, diagnostic assessments, individualized tutoring, and other evidence-based interventions." Overall, McCann adds, districts are not communicating graduation criteria to students and families—though 90% of states are keeping graduation requirements the same.

[The 74 Million](#)

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NUTRITION

Food Assistance Available For Families In Utah

Eligible families in Utah will get around \$300 per child for meals if they apply to the Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer program within the next month. For families that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), they don't need to re-apply because they're already in the system. The money should load automatically onto SNAP cards.

[KUTV](#)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

NYC Unveils Improved Health And Safety Protocols For Schools

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza have shared more details on their health and safety protocols ahead of schools reopening. Leading up to the first day of school, all staff members will have to be tested. If there is a confirmed case in a classroom, all students and teachers in close contact with that person will have to self-quarantine for 14 days and the classroom will transition to remote learning during that time. A school will close and go fully virtual for 14 days if a link is unable to be determined between at least two cases. School districts in New York should have now submitted their reopening plans to the governor, who will decide on them by August 7.

[ABC News](#)

Strategic



TECHNOLOGY

Call For National Policy On Internet Access

In an opinion piece for *Education Week*, Jessica Rosenworcel, a commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission, and former U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr., now president and CEO of The Education Trust, call upon Congress and the White House to legislate to ensure that every student has the home connectivity and devices they need to make the most of learning during the coming school year. They cite a recent McKinsey report estimating that this spring, a combination of inadequate internet access, insufficient professional development and support for teachers, and uneven instruction cost students an average of seven months of learning (with a disparate impact of nine months for Latinx students and ten months for black students.) They specifically call for the modernization of E-Rate, the nation's largest education technology program, run by the FCC; other suggestions include adequate funding from Congress to stabilize state and local budgets to prevent budget cuts that would devastate schools and force layoffs, and for targeted funding to address student-learning loss from last spring, as well as students' socioemotional needs as kids and their families navigate the pandemic.

[Education Week](#)

The NYC Teacher Working To Diversity Computer Science

Mohammad Ahmad, who teaches computer science, math, and financial literacy at the Bronx Academy of Letters, was recently named Amazon Future Engineer Teacher of the Year, for promoting inclusion in computer science. The award comes with \$50,000 in prize money and supplies for Bronx Academy of Letters. In an interview with *Chalkbeat*, Ahmad discusses his classroom community, his commitment to diversifying the field of computer science, and how he helped his students navigate their grief following the sudden death of the school's young principal. He describes how he has worked to make his classroom into a safe space, where students are allowed to say whatever they need to work through their thoughts, fears, and trauma without fear of judgement.

[Chalkbeat](#)

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INTERNATIONAL

Canada To Release Mask Guidelines For Children

Canada's government will be releasing mask guidelines for children returning to school amid the coronavirus pandemic by the end of the week, chief public health officer Theresa Tam said, recommending coverings for children aged 10 and up. "Older children over the age of 10 transmit as well as an adult. Younger kids, even though they transmit at a lower likelihood, they still can transmit," she said. Tam added that schools "should" recommend wearing masks, simply because they provide an extra layer of protection. She also urged Canadians to avoid stigmatizing or singling out children who choose to wear masks in their own volition. Meanwhile, the Toronto District School Board has published a final report with details about the upcoming academic year. Teens will alternate between full days in class and full days online, in a "quadmester" structure. So instead of two semesters, there will be four semesters of 44 or 45 days each, with two or three additional days for exams. Secondary students will take two classes per quadmester, in cohorts of about 15. Teachers will teach a single class and a cohort will be assigned to them. Students will not be able to use their lockers, and there will be no organized sports until Ontario's chief medical officer of health, Dr. David Williams, explicitly says they can proceed.

[Global News](#) [CBC News](#)

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From: [Forman, SarahJane \(OSSE\)](#)
To: [Cathern Smith](#); [Joe Peters](#)
Cc: [Rubinstein, Gwen \(OSSE\)](#); [Tammara, Nagesh\(OSSE\)](#)
Subject: RE: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 3:11:03 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Letter to University of Alaska re Disclosure of Education Records to Legislative Audit Division -- FERPA Online Library.pdf](#)
[USDE Final FERPA Rule making.pdf](#)
[The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Guidance for Reasonable Methods and Written Agreements.pdf](#)
[utahag_0.pdf](#)

Cathern and Joe,

It was great to meet you earlier today. Attached please find some of the resources I mentioned in our conversation: the letter to Alaska, the letter to Utah, the USDE final rulemaking that describes the audit/eval exception logic, and then the USDE guidance on written agreements, which are all materials I sent to the Auditor's lawyers when we began this journey.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance. Thanks!

In service,

SJ

Sarah Jane Forman
General Counsel
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
1050 First Street, NE
Room 338
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 727-0382 Office
Sarahjane.forman@dc.gov

Due to emergency declarations associated with COVID-19, I am working remotely to maintain social distance. I remain accessible by this e-mail and the phone number listed above. Stay safe and be well.

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WAWDC

From: Cathern Smith <Cathern.Smith@coag.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Tammara, Nagesh (OSSE) <nagesh.tammara@dc.gov>; Joe Peters <Joe.Peters@coag.gov>
Cc: Forman, SarahJane (OSSE) <sarahjane.forman@dc.gov>; Rubinstein, Gwen (OSSE) <gwen.rubinstein@dc.gov>
Subject: RE: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government

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Tammara: Yes, 9:00 a.m. mountain time/11:00 yours works for me.

From: Tammara, Nagesh (OSSE) <nagesh.tammara@dc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Julie Tolleson <Julie.Tolleson@coag.gov>; Cathern Smith <Cathern.Smith@coag.gov>; Joe Peters <Joe.Peters@coag.gov>
Cc: Forman, SarahJane (OSSE) <sarahjane.forman@dc.gov>; Rubinstein, Gwen (OSSE) <gwen.rubinstein@dc.gov>
Subject: RE: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government

Good Morning Cathern and Joe,

Might be you be available for a call tomorrow morning at 11am EST, which I believe is 9am MDT.

Nagesh V. Tammara

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From: Julie Tolleson [<mailto:Julie.Tolleson@coag.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Tammara, Nagesh (OSSE) <nagesh.tammara@dc.gov>
Cc: Forman, SarahJane (OSSE) <sarahjane.forman@dc.gov>; Cathern Smith <Cathern.Smith@coag.gov>; Joe Peters <Joe.Peters@coag.gov>
Subject: RE: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government

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Sure thing. I will be out, but honestly a member of my team is the lead on it anyway. So, I've cc'd two of my folks – Cathern, who is leading the analysis/negotiation/etc., and Joe would we be heading the team in my absence during a much-needed vacation. They are both great. If you can circulate calendar options to them, that would be great. And I'm around Monday but I suspect Sarah will need a day or two to breath.

From: Tammara, Nagesh (OSSE) <nagesh.tammara@dc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Julie Tolleson <Julie.Tolleson@coag.gov>
Cc: Forman, SarahJane (OSSE) <sarahjane.forman@dc.gov>
Subject: Re: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government

Sarah Jane is out of this office this week. Could we aim for mid next week and I can confer with her on a time?

Nagesh V. Tammara
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From: Julie Tolleson <Julie.Tolleson@coag.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:42:24 PM
To: Tammara, Nagesh (OSSE) <nagesh.tammara@dc.gov>
Cc: Forman, SarahJane (OSSE) <sarahjane.forman@dc.gov>
Subject: RE: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government

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That sounds fantastic! Do you all have any time by chance tomorrow? I am free up until 3 pm eastern. I could send an invite via Microsoft teams, if you use that, or we can still with the phone.

From: Tammara, Nagesh (OSSE) <nagesh.tammara@dc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Julie Tolleson <Julie.Tolleson@coag.gov>
Cc: Forman, SarahJane (OSSE) <sarahjane.forman@dc.gov>
Subject: RE: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education within the District of Columbia has been engaged in this conversation with the DC Auditor. I would be happy to schedule some time to chat, together with our General Counsel, as OSSE has been engaged extensively with US DOE on this precise issue.

N

Nagesh V. Tammara

Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
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From: National Council of State Education Attorneys [<mailto:NCOSEA@LSV.UKY.EDU>] **On Behalf Of** Mayes, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 1:04 PM
To: NCOSEA@LSV.UKY.EDU
Subject: Re: [NCOSEA:] Requests for FERPA-protected data from superior arms of State government

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I agree. I am not aware of Iowa's auditor of state requesting any PII without compliance with a specific FERPA exception to parental consent.

Due to emergency declarations associated with COVID-19, I am working remotely to maintain social distance. I remain accessible by this e-mail and the phone numbers listed below. Stay safe and be well.

Thomas A. Mayes
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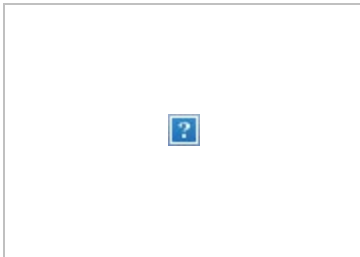
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upon request in accordance with Iowa's public records law (Iowa Code chapter 22).

On Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 10:40 AM Julie Tolleson <Julie.Tolleson@coag.gov> wrote:

Our state has an office of state auditor that has sweeping statutory authority as to data access. No doubt the statute would trump state-level confidentiality of various kinds, but a simple supremacy analysis would suggest that FERPA restrictions remain. Nonetheless, has anyone dealt with an issue like this?

Julie C. Tolleson
First Assistant Attorney General
K-12 Education Unit
Office of the Attorney General
1300 Broadway Street
Denver, CO 80203
Tele. 720-508-6186
Cell 520-471-2349



For the latest information on the District Government's response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

From: [Allen, Todd - Office of Legal Services](#)
To: [Lucas, Tiffany](#); [Joe Peters](#)
Subject: RE: NCOSEA -
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 2:52:20 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[NCOSEA 2020 Dues.xlsx](#)
[NCOSEA 20 Dues Invoice OK.pdf](#)

Attached is the most current list I have of states that paid dues for 2020. Colorado has paid so no additional billing is needed for this request.

For states that are not NASBE members, I have sent invoices. In the future, we may need to discuss this with NASBE as I believe the \$2,000 fee we pay includes invoicing all NCOSEA member states, regardless of whether the state is a NASBE member. I'm including a sample invoice – it is a template provided by Sharon Cannon at NASBE.

Sharon Cannon is the contact at NASBE for all things financial. She has been very helpful anytime I've reached out to her for help.

Thanks!



Todd G. Allen

Interim General Counsel
Office of Legal Services

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Email: Todd.Allen@education.ky.gov

*In response to the COVID-19 crisis, our focus at the Kentucky Department of Education is three-fold – **Educate, Feed and Support**. We are committed to providing guidance and solutions that focus on educating and feeding our children and providing support to our districts. For more information about KDE's response to COVID-19, visit: <http://bit.ly/KDEcovid19>. Questions? You can call (502) 892-6968 or e-mail covid19@education.ky.gov.*

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From: Lucas, Tiffany <TLucas@ncdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 1:30 PM

To: Joe Peters <Joe.Peters@coag.gov>; Allen, Todd - Office of Legal Services
<todd.allen@education.ky.gov>

Subject: Re: NCOSEA -

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky K-12 schools, or Kentucky State Government. Do not click links, open attachments or forward unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Joe --I have copied and pasted below an email from February 2019 that Todd sent in response to someone who reached out to me and requested to be added to the listserv. Is the person who reached out to you from a member state?

Todd -- is Sharon Cannon the NASBE person who can get the billing process started if that hasn't happened?

Tiffany

Hi Liz,

Thanks for your interest in joining our NCOSEA group. To become a member, states pay an annual membership fee of \$130 which covers membership for all SEA attorneys. Our organization is affiliated with the National Associate of State Boards of Education (NASBE) who collects our membership dues for us. I checked our most recent payment roster and Pennsylvania has not paid NCOSEA dues. It appears your state is not a member of NASBE, but NASBE membership is not required for your attorneys to be NCOSEA members.

We would love for your state to join us. We operate a listserv for fielding SEA attorney questions and host an annual conference (with additional attendance fee). If you are interested in joining, please let me know and I'll connect you with someone who can get the billing process started to collect the \$130 fee.

Thanks,

Todd

From: Joe Peters <Joe.Peters@coag.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 10:09 AM

To: Allen, Todd - Office of Legal Services <todd.allen@education.ky.gov>; Lucas, Tiffany
<TLucas@ncdoj.gov>

Subject: FW: NCOSEA -

Todd, Tiffany –Do you know, how does one get added to the listserv? Is it just filling in the box on the website, or does someone screen those and approve them?

Joe Peters
Assistant Attorney General
K-12 Education Unit
State Services Section
Colorado Department of Law
(720) 508-6179 Direct



From: Cathern Smith <Cathern.Smith@coag.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:54 AM

To: Joe Peters <Joe.Peters@coag.gov>

Subject: NCOSEA -

Hi Joe,

Isabel's email reminded me that I need to follow-up with someone get on NCOSEA's listserve and member's login.

Cathern

From: [School Business Daily](#)
To: joe.peters@coag.gov
Subject: Younger Kids Could Spread COVID-19 As Much As Older Children and Adults
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 5:34:11 AM

ASBO International

[View this email in a browser](#)

ASBO International Logo



August 3, 2020

Good Morning, Joe

LEADING THE NEWS

Younger Kids Could Spread COVID-19 As Much As Older Children And Adults

A study from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, has found that children younger than five years with mild to moderate COVID-19 have much higher levels of genetic material for the virus in the nose compared to older children and adults. Researchers examined 145 cases of mild to moderate COVID-19 illness within the first week of symptom onset. They compared the viral load in three age groups: children younger than 5 years, children 5-17 years, and adults 18-65 years. It found that replication of COVID-19 in older children leads to similar levels of viral nucleic acid as adults, and that significantly greater amounts of viral nucleic acid are detected in children younger than five years. "Our study was not designed to prove that younger children spread COVID-19 as much as adults, but it is a possibility," said lead author Dr Taylor Heald-Sargent. "We need to take that into account in efforts to reduce transmission as we continue to learn more about this virus." As public health systems look to reopen schools and day cares, understanding transmission potential in children will be important to guide public health measures.

[Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago](#) — [JAMA Network](#)



OPERATIONS

COVID-19 Could Transform Education For The Better, Academic Asserts

Former Massachusetts secretary of education Paul Reville, who now directs the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Education Redesign Lab, which works to boost equity in public education, discusses reopening schools this fall, online learning, and the opportunities that he feels COVID-19 presents to transform U.S. education for the better. He champions the idea of providing every student with an individualized "success plan," and also the creation of "children's cabinets" to address all of children's needs in a community beyond just K-12. "I do think we're at a transformative moment, and this emergency, while it is punishing and problematic in terms of equity in the short term, in the long term, it's getting us to become familiar with tools and opportunities for growing and developing a more equitable system of child development and education in this country," he asserts.

[Harvard Magazine](#)

Pandemic Pods: A Lifeline For Parents Or A Threat To Equity?

As schools scramble to plan for the upcoming school year, they face yet another new and vexing wrinkle: the sudden surge of interest in "learning pods." Also called "microschools" or "pandemic pods," all three terms describe the phenomenon of informal groups of parents who are looking for some kind of educational continuity and child care for their children as they enter an uncertain fall. It's often the most affluent parents who can afford these arrangements that could cost hundreds or thousands of dollars per month, even though concern about the upcoming school year is universal. In multiple surveys, Black and Latino parents have consistently been less enthusiastic than white parents about a return to in-person learning. However, poverty rates in those communities are higher than among white families, making it more challenging overall for them to just opt out of the district's program. "I worry a bout how those pods will ultimately exacerbate inequities and potentially undermine support for education as a public good," said Jessica Calarco, an associate professor of sociology at Indiana University, whose research focuses on schools, education, and privilege.

[Education Week](#)

MANAGEMENT & TRAINING

What Educators Need To Know About TikTok

Education Week addresses some of the controversies that surround TikTok, the video-sharing platform on which users share short video clips of 60 seconds or less, including whether it is mining reams of data from children, sharing the information with the Chinese government in Beijing, engaging in political censorship, and leaving its users vulnerable to hacking. In recent weeks, President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and lawmakers from both sides of the political divide have raised concerns about TikTok's Chinese ownership and relationship with the Chinese Communist Party. Central to their complaints are worries that the company might currently, or could be compelled to, share users' personal information with the Chinese government, which is in the midst of building one of the most extreme digital surveillance states on the planet.

[Education Week](#)

NUTRITION

Congress Urged To Extend Food Aid To Schoolchildren

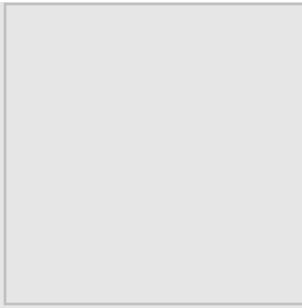
A coalition of educators, activists, and philanthropists, including the American Federation of Teachers, the NAACP, and the charity World Central Kitchen, has called for Congress to extend and expand emergency provisions that allow school districts nationwide to feed children during the coronavirus pandemic. "We are urging you to rapidly pass legislation to address the nation's hunger crisis. This is a national humanitarian crisis that requires immediate action and innovation across several fronts," the group wrote in a letter addressed to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, and House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy.

[New York Times](#)

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SAFETY AND SECURITY

Student And Staffer Test Positive For COVID At Indiana Schools

At least one student and one school staff member at an Indiana school have tested positive for the coronavirus, just days after public schools around the state reopened their doors for the first time since March. Greenfield-Central Community School Corporation Superintendent Harold Olin sent an email to parents of students at Greenfield-Central Junior High School Thursday afternoon notifying them that a student at the school had tested positive. The district has enacted its "Positive COVID-19 Test Protocol," which included isolating the student in the school clinic. District and school nurses worked to identify other students or staff who may have come in close contact. Classrooms and areas where the student spent time were also given special cleanings. Close contacts will have to quarantine for 14 days before returning to school, according to the protocol. Any staff or students who test positive for the coronavirus can return to school only after isolating at home for 10 days, and allowing at least 72 hours to pass since showing symptoms. Greenfield-Central Junior High students who were not in close contact with the student who tested positive were able to continue in-person classes Friday.

[New York Times](#) [CBS News](#) [WION](#)

Strategic



TECHNOLOGY

NY Gov. Announces \$94 Million For School Technology Upgrades

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has approved 148 Smart Schools Investment Plans aimed at improving school security and reimagining teaching and learning for the modern age.

The approved plans, totaling \$94 million, are part of the \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act; projects include \$52.2 million for classroom technology, \$13.7 million for school connectivity, \$24.9 million for high-tech security, and \$2 million for pre-kindergarten classrooms. School districts are investing in technology such as computer servers, interactive whiteboards, tablets, desktop and laptop computers, and high-speed broadband and wireless connectivity. "As the ongoing public health crisis has shown, now more than ever we must do everything possible to help schools modernize their infrastructure and are equipped to keep students up with their studies even when they can't be in the classroom," Cuomo said. "With this funding, we are helping schools navigate the pandemic while expanding opportunities and providing students with the skills and technology they need to succeed in the 21st century economy."

[New York.gov](https://www.ny.gov/newsroom/cuomo-announces-smart-schools-bond-act)

Strategic



INTERNATIONAL

Classroom Learning To Resume In September For All Manitoba Students

Classroom learning will resume on September 8 for all students in kindergarten through Grade 12 at schools across Manitoba following last spring's suspension caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools* guidelines have been developed in collaboration with the province's kindergarten to Grade 12 COVID-19 response planning team, as well as with school divisions and public health officials. A total of \$48 million in savings is available to ensure that schools are COVID-ready in September, Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen said, adding the province is monitoring resource implications closely as part of its planning to ensure the safe return to classroom instruction in the upcoming school year. In a joint statement, the Manitoba School Boards Association, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools, Manitoba Association of School Business Officials, and the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents said, "We believe that collaborative planning is in the best interests of students, parents, and school staff. The goal is to have as many students as possible learning in classrooms this fall and throughout the coming school year. Maintaining a strong focus on the health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, families, and communities, we all agree the emphasis needs to be on getting students the in-person teaching and learning they need while making sure that safety is the top priority for everyone."

[Manitoba.ca](https://www.manitoba.ca)

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