



## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM NYSCAME/SUFFOLK & SCMEA REGARDING NEW YORK STATE REOPENING GUIDANCE**

On Monday, July 13, 2020, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) released guidance for public schools to use in their reopening plans. These plans must be submitted to NYSED by Friday, July 31, 2020. It is our recommendation that music educators work proactively with their district's task force to ensure that the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts continue to be implemented in all three scheduling scenarios that are being considered for the upcoming school year (in-person instruction, remote instruction, hybrid instruction).

For this reason, the Suffolk County Chapter of the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME/Suffolk) and the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association (SCMEA) have compiled a list of recommendations that can be shared with district task force committees:

- Maintain a program of studies and course offerings to ensure equitable, quality, sequential, standards-based instruction for all students provided by highly qualified music educators.
- Provide appropriate instructional time to support the NYS Learning Standards for the Arts and local district goals. In all three modes of instruction, (in-person, remote, and hybrid) contact time/live instruction should be included to the greatest extent possible.
- Arts, CTE, Labs, and Other Areas Must be Prioritized: Recognize the unique challenges and opportunities of remote instruction to the arts, career and technical education, physical education, laboratory coursework, and other activity-oriented subjects, understanding it is imperative that schools include in-person instruction in those areas to the extent possible.
  - [Governor's Reimagine Schools Statewide Committee Guidance Presentation](#)
  - [NYS Department of Health Reopening Schools Guidance](#) (Page 9)
- Prioritize the development of the whole child. Emphasize elements of [social-emotional learning](#) through the arts.

- Consider scheduling large ensembles into smaller groups where appropriate. Shift curriculum focus to solo and small ensemble work. Shift from a concert format to a recital/virtual format.
- Maintain small homogeneous groupings of instruments and voices for lesson instruction where possible
- Maintain proper spacing when students are singing or performing with instruments by scheduling ensembles in auditoriums, outdoors, cafeterias, gyms, or other large spaces. Focus on maximizing distancing for instruments that require blowing or for singing, compared with string and percussion instruments. Although NYSED documents state that a distance of 12' for wind instruments and vocal performance should be maintained, see the [Colorado State University Aerosol Emissions Study](#) for more up-to-date information. (6' for voice/wind instruments and 9' for trombone, see document regarding face coverings and performance)
- Continue full access to beginning instrumental music, regardless of the mode of instruction. (in-person, remote, hybrid)
- Assure appropriate class time for materials and tools to be distributed by the teacher and to allow for proper cleaning of materials.
- For handling musical instruments, consult the [National Association for Music Education's \(NAfME\) COVID-19 Instrument Cleaning Guidelines](#).
- Sharing of materials should be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- Ensure access to music-specific technology to support remote instruction.
- Evolving guidance from the New York State School Music Association for music instruction may be found under the COVID-19 Resources links at [www.nyssma.org](http://www.nyssma.org). (monitor your email for forthcoming NYSSMA Cybernotes)

New York State guidance may be found at the following links:

- 7/13/20 - Governor's presentation - New York State Department of Health (pages 9, 14) - [Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- 7/14/20 - New York State - Reopening New York - [Checklist for Pre-K to Grade 12 School Reopening Plans](#)
- 7/14/20 - New York State - Reopening New York (page 2) - [Guidelines for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools](#)

- 7/16/20 - New York State Education Department (pages 99-101) - [Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools Reopening Guidance](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to consult with the leadership of your organizations:

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