Hello Dragons,

I hope everyone is getting some recharge time with family and friends in this social distancing environment. I know that when I’ve been out on walks, I’ve seen more people outside than ever before. I guess that is a good thing!

In the last few days, multiple county health departments issued “Stay at Home” orders, followed by Governor Polis instituting a statewide “Stay at Home” order that went into effect as of this morning, Thursday, March 26th. However, in reading these multiple orders, questions were raised about contradictions or omissions from the State order related to education being an essential business. While the State order supersedes all of the county orders, it specifically lacked mentioning education impacts where the county orders did.

Fortunately, the Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the State have issued a clarification this morning. Education is an essential business, or a critical governmental function, as listed in the order. CDE Commissioner Anthes states,

- “For purposes of this Order, travel is necessary for any of the following purposes: (1) providing or accessing Necessary Activities, Minimum Basic Operations, Critical Government Functions, and Critical Businesses; (2) receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services from educational institutions; (3) returning to a place of Residence from outside the jurisdiction; (4) travel required by law enforcement or court order; (5) non-residents returning to their place of Residence.
- In addition: Performing work providing essential products and services for a Critical Business or Critical Government Function as defined in Section III.C and D, below, or to otherwise carry out activities permitted in this PHO (thus (2) above).
This clearly shows that education is an essential service as long as proper social distancing is taking place.

The Governor’s office has also updated the order to include education:

- K-12 public and private schools for the purpose of providing meals, housing, facilitating or providing materials for distance learning, and providing other essential services to students.

This clarifies that our processes for getting materials and devices to those families contacted by us on Monday, March 30th is permitted within the order as long as we maintain social distancing.

Thank you for your partnership throughout this situation. Enjoy the last few days of Spring Break and we look forward to getting back to school next week!

Sincerely,

Wayne Granger
Executive Director

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