



COVID-19 School Closures: General Information

This resource was last updated on April 27, 2020. Some information may have changed.

All children are entitled to a quality public education. ELC is working to support students and families in understanding their rights and assisting them in finding the help they need during the COVID-19 crisis.

- 1. Students Should Still Get an Education and Free Meals:** Though schools in Pennsylvania are closed, they must resume providing instruction to all students. Call your school or check your school or district's website for information on accessing remote learning and free meals. The school's information should be in a language you can understand.
- 2. Your School May Offer Supports for Online Learning:** If your school is using computer-based learning and you do not have a computer or internet access, ask your school for help. Free resources may be available. If your child has a disability, please see our [5 Things to Know for Students with Disabilities](#) for information on how your school can support your child's remote learning.
- 3. Local Resources Are Available:** Many local organizations provide free food and other services to support families, like [supports for mental health and well-being](#). Try your city, town, or county hotline, social media pages, and websites. Local food pantries may also be offering help. If your community has a 211 or 311 hotline, this is often a good place to call for up-to-date information.
- 4. Education Laws Still Protect Children When Schools Are Closed:** The same laws that helped students succeed in public schools before COVID-19 are still in place. For example, English learners should receive language instruction, and students experiencing homelessness can still stay in their same school even if they have to move. See our [5 Things to Know for English Learners](#) and [5 Things to Know for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#).
- 5. Students Will Still Graduate:** All students who were supposed to graduate this year should graduate on time. [Schools have been told not to punish students](#) in any way and to be flexible in supporting seniors in graduating.

The Education Law Center-PA (ELC) is a nonprofit, legal advocacy organization with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, dedicated to ensuring that all children in Pennsylvania have access to a quality public education.

ELC's publications provide a general statement of the law. However, each situation is different, and state and federal guidance on these topics continues to change.

If you have questions or concerns, please call our Helpline at 215-238-6970 (Eastern and Central PA) or 412-258-2120 (Western PA).